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22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Muawad assassinated

Bomb kills Lebanese President; Aoun calls murder 'an ugly crime'

BEIRUT, Nov 22, (Agencies): President Rene Muawad was assassinated by a remote-controlled bomb in West Beirut today, 17 days after he was elected with a mandate to try to end Lebanon's civil war. He was 64.

Police said 23 other people were killed and 36 wounded in the thunderous explosion that ripped through Muawad's 10-car motorcade on West Beirut's Bustros boulevard at 1.45 pm (1145 GMT). Warrant Officer Mohammed Khashab, West Beirut's chief sapper, said the 250 kilograms (550 pounds) of TNT was concealed in a small roadside shop and detonated as the motorcade drove past.

The blast hurled Muawad's bulletproof blue Mercedes-Benz from the middle of the boulevard and it landed upside-down in a parking lot 30 yards (metres) away.

45 killed in Indian polls

Turnout 60 pc

Arab Times report

NEW DELHI, Nov 22: The world's most populous democracy began deciding today whether Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gets another chance to govern or falls victim to the most cohesive opposition challenge ever mounted in India.

At least 45 campaign workers and voters were killed in scattered bombings, kidnappings and shootings on the first day of the parliamentary election, which continues on Friday and Sunday.

As polls closed today, reports of rising violence and ballot fraud mounted in Rajiv's own constituency of Amethi.

Police, residents and both political parties several clashes between supporters of the Congress Party and the Janata Dal, the major partner in the opposition coalition.

Deployed
More than 100,000 paramilitary troops were deployed across the nation of 880 million people to help local police stem campaign violence, which has killed at least 66 people since parliamentary elections were announced Oct 17.

Preliminary reports indicated voter turnout of about 60 per cent, a normal turnout. The highest percentage of voting was reported from the Lakshadweep islands 84 per cent. In Kerala and Tripura, it was above 80 per cent.

Only 13 of India's 25 states and five of its seven federally governed territories voted today. The rest of the country, with the exception of Assam state, votes on Friday and Sunday. Voting was postponed indefinitely in Assam because electoral rolls were incomplete.

At stake in the elections are 524 of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha, or house of the people, the policy-making lower house of Parliament. The chamber chooses the prime minister.

Opinion polls conducted this month for two major Indian news magazines indicated the Congress Party, haunted by allegations of high-level corruption, would get 180 to 215 of the seats. That would relegate it to opposition status or force it to seek a coalition with smaller parties.

Despite surveys predicting Congress would fall well below the 273 seats it needs for an absolute majority, the prime minister appeared confident.

"We are going to win," he told reporters after he and his wife Sonia and son Rahul voted in a polling booth set up near his Delhi home.

Congress spokesman Anand Sharma said the party that has ruled India for all but two years since independence would be returned with up to 360 seats.

Voter turnout was reported high in Delhi, more than 70 per cent at some polling stations.

In the dusty villages west of the capital, voters appeared solidly behind Janata Dal and it was hard to find anybody who admitted voting for Congress.

Sumender Singh, at 19 one of India's newly enfranchised 18 to 20-year-olds, said he was typical of those voting for the first time.

Charges
"I voted for Janata Dal because it is a good party. I voted against corruption," he said, a reference to unproven charges that government officials took kickbacks in a defence deal.

Phul Singh, at 110 probably India's oldest voter, was carried by his great-grandson to a polling station in Pakasina village in Haryana state next to Delhi.

In Uttar Pradesh, the state that elects 85 of the seats, opposition leaders charged the electoral roll did not contain the names of many 18 year olds who are eligible to vote for the first time this year.

"It's a calculated step to prevent the young generation who are opposed to the Congress Party to cast ballots," Madhukar Dighe, spokesman for the opposition Janata Dal party, said in the state capital of Lucknow.

In the last campaign, in 1984, 38 deaths were reported.

The Health Minister of western Gujarat state was stabbed to death last night after addressing a Congress Party rally in Hatmatiana, 600 miles (969 kilometres) southwest of New Delhi. United News said a 21-year-old man was arrested but a motive was not known.

Three bomb blasts rocked the Kashmir valley near the Pakistani frontier, where Muslim militants who want to secede from predominantly Hindu India told voters to boycott the election. No injuries were reported, but Press Trust of India said the militants set fire to three polling stations and snatched ballots from poll workers at two other sites.

Kashmir
Kashmir election officials estimated voter turnout at less than five per cent.

In the town of Anantnag, militants placed two coffins near a polling station with signs that read: "Whoever votes will meet this fate."

In the eastern Orissa state, armed activists raided polling booths and stole ballot boxes after their boycott call was ignored. They also threw small bombs at a hotel where election officials were staying, but nobody was injured, authorities said.

In the Amethi district, a local opposition leader, Sanjay Singh, the Janata Dal party's candidate in a simultaneous state legislative election was shot in the arm, aides said. They claimed the gunman was a Congress Party activist. But the Congress Party condemned the violence, calling it a "murderous assault on democracy."

Rajiv and his chief opponent, Janata Dal leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh, are running in separate constituencies in Uttar Pradesh.

Singh defied forecasts he would fail to hold the shaky, feud-riven coalition together until the elections. He also engineered pacts with the Hindu

Police said it took more than an hour to identify the President's body among the mangled corpses.

The President travelled barely 500 yards from the government offices where he received diplomats, members of Parliament and senior officials on the 46th anniversary of independence.

Prime Minister-designate Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, and Shiite Muslim Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini, who were driving in separate limousines behind the President, escaped unhurt.

No group claimed responsibility for killing the Maronite Catholic President.

Syria, which controls two-thirds of Lebanon and backed Muawad's election, quickly pointed the finger of suspicion at General Michel Aoun, who rules the Christian enclave and rejected the new President's authority.

Kuwait today deplored the assassination and called on all Lebanese factions not to allow opportunists exploit the situation.

An authoritative Kuwaiti source said: "Kuwait, grieved with the sad news of the killing of Lebanese President and his entourage, deplores this sinful incident which aimed at joining Lebanon's entity and unity."

Kuwait, the source added, "is fully confident that Lebanese leaders will not enable all those who hide bad intentions for Lebanon to exploit this incident."

The Kuwaiti source called on the Lebanese leaders to "unify their word and action to remove Lebanon from this dilemma."

He extended the country's condolences to the family of late President, and the families of his entourage.

Aoun, who denied the President recognition as head of state and termed him a puppet of Syria, described his assassination as an "ugly crime."

Aoun's interim military cabinet, which rules the Christian enclave, said in a statement it held an emergency meeting in East Beirut "to examine initial information about the ugly crime."

"The cabinet expresses its deep regret for the assassination of one of Lebanon's most distinguished leaders," it said without recognising his presidency.

The cabinet offered condolences to Muawad's family, from Zghorta in Syrian-held North Lebanon.

It said it had told the justice council, Lebanon's highest judicial authority, to investigate the crime and called on people "to beware of the dangerous conspiracy which is being executed against Lebanon."

The cabinet also urged "foreign and Arab states to beware of the dangers of the conspiracy which Lebanon is being subjected to."

It called for "a new serious initiative to be launched to stop the conspiracy, the goals and tools of which have now been unveiled."

Hoss, his voice shaking with emotion, said in a radio address:

"It is a national disaster. President Rene Muawad was assassinated by the treacherous hand of treason. He fell a martyr of peace, a martyr of Lebanon's unity and national reconciliation."

The murder dealt a crippling blow to an internationally acclaimed peace accord brokered by the Arab League last month in a bid to resolve the sectarian conflict that has killed more than 150,000 people in 14 years.

Pro-Syrian leftist factions also blamed the assassination on Aoun, who has been holding out against the peace pact from his base in the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

The charge raised fears of renewed warfare between Aoun's 20,000 mainly Christian troops and an alliance of the Syrian Army and leftist Muslim militias, unless a successor to Muawad is quickly elected by Parliament.

Muawad, a lawyer by profession, became the second Lebanese President to be assassinated since Lebanon gained independence from France.

Bashir Gemayel, also a Maronite, was assassinated by a bomb blast in Christian East Beirut on Sept 14, 1982, three weeks after he was elected. He was 34.

Muawad was elected President by Parliament Nov 5 in a session held at a remote airbase in Syrian-policed North Lebanon, outside the range of Aoun's artillery.

He was entrusted with enforcing



Rescue workers rush the body of Muawad. (Reuter wirephoto)

Heinous crime shocks world

Call to hope

NICOSIA, Nov 22, (Agencies): The Arab world and the West reacted in horror and shock to the assassination of President Rene Muawad but urged the Lebanese people to press ahead to his unfulfilled hope of peace.

Syria condemned the assassination and blamed it on "the hand of betrayal and treason."

"Those who perpetrated this abominable crime are the enemies of Lebanon's unity," President Hafez Al Assad said in a telegram to Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Husseini.

Assad, who decreed seven days of mourning in Syria, called the killing a tragedy that "should be a new impulse to double support for Lebanon, so it can destroy the evil in its nest."

Assad ordered flags lowered to half-staff throughout Syria.

The Syrian Arab News Agency said Muawad's killing followed a series of threats by Christian army commander Gen. Michel Aoun against those, such as Muawad, who supported the Arab League peace plan.

"The hand of betrayal and treason has perpetrated this abominable crime against Lebanon and Lebanese legitimacy, after a series of threats by renegade Aoun," the agency said.

The state-run agency accused Aoun of "threatening to burn Lebanon, destroy Beirut, and murder the personalities, deputies and leaderships who contributed to the operation of national entente achieved in Taif, which led to the election of the late president-martyr, Muawad."

In Washington, President George Bush condemned the murder as a "disgraceful terrorist act" and offered US help in bringing the killers to justice.

"I think it is a direct setback to the effort to bring peace to Lebanon," Bush told reporters as he flew to Tennessee.

Like other US officials who expressed shock at the assassination, Bush stressed the US view



Last salute

Muawad reviewed troops (left) at the government palace in West Beirut early yesterday to mark the 46th Independence Day of Lebanon. At right is a file picture of Muawad. (Reuter wirephoto)



PARIS, Nov 22, (Agencies): The two children of Lebanese President Rene Muawad who was assassinated in Beirut today returned to Lebanon, family sources said.

Muawad's daughter Rima and his son Michel left Paris on a private plane owned by Saudi-Lebanese businessman Rafik Hariri, who accompanied them.

Rima, is studying law at a Paris college and Michel, is a high school student. Friends said Muawad's wife was in Beirut.

Lebanese friends visited the children at their apartment in a residential district of central Paris before they left under heavy police guard.

Washington's first official reaction, earlier appealed for calm in Lebanon and extended sympathy to Muawad's family and the Lebanese people.

The State Department, issuing that "we must not let this brutal killing get in the way of trying to bring peace to that troubled corner of the world."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the killing of Muawad was an expression of Middle East terror and violence, adding that Israel should be

ready to "ensure its security" in the wake of his assassination. Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron said Israel would

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OIC ready to mediate the future of Mindanao

Call for talks between Manila and Moro

JEDDAH, Nov 22, (AP): The Organisation of Islamic Conference today offered to renew its mediation between the Philippine government and Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari following the defeat of President Corazon Aquino's referendum on the future of Muslim-dominated Mindanao.

In its first reaction after the Sunday referendum, the 46-member OIC described the outcome of the plebiscite as a flat rejection of the system of autonomy proposed.

It said the organisation, headquartered in this Saudi Arabian port city of Jeddah, had been closely following the referendum and noted

that a large number of Muslims boycotted it.

The statement, issued by Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid, affirmed the OIC "readiness to assist in establishing constructive dialogue between the government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front on the basis of the Tripoli agreement signed between the two sides in 1976."

This was "prompted by its duty of solidarity with the Muslims in the southern Philippines and desirous of contributing to the return of peace," the statement said.

US shuttle ready for launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Nov 22, (AP): Crews worked under a tight schedule to ready the space shuttle Discovery for an after-dark launch today.

The US space agency predicted that the astronauts would celebrate Thanksgiving — the American holiday commemorating the pilgrim settler's harvest feast of 1621 — by eating turkey in space tomorrow.

The launch time is a secret, and so is the nature of the military payload the crew of five is to put into orbit. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has said only that liftoff will be between 6:30 and 10:30 pm (2330 GMT and 0330 GMT).

The menu released for the mission includes "thermostabilized" turkey and gravy, which means the food has enough preservatives to be carried without refrigeration.

Checking various systems and putting the two solid fuel booster rockets back together had put the schedule in jeopardy. The rockets were opened last week to inspect computer boxes for faulty wiring, and one box was replaced.

Manila sets talks term

MANILA, Nov 22, (Reuters): The Philippine government will talk peace with Muslim separatist rebels only if all rival guerrilla factions are present at the negotiations, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said today.

Manglapus set down the condition after a majority of voters in the southern island of Mindanao on Sunday rejected the offer of partial autonomy to the area in a plebiscite.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNL) is the biggest of four Muslim insurgent groups fighting for Muslim self-rule in Mindanao, 800 km (500 miles) south of Manila.

"The government will sit if it sees that there are reasonable proponents for an understanding," Manglapus told reporters after a meeting of President Corazon Aquino and her political and economic advisers.

"I personally do not see how that understanding can be reached unless all the factions of the MNL are together," Manglapus said.

The MNL has an estimated 10,000 fighters and is headed by Nur Misuari, who is based in the Middle East and supported by the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). His leadership of the insurgency is being challenged by three other guerrilla factions.

It favoured a negotiated settlement on the basis of Tripoli agreement because it "sets a perfect framework for a final solution."

The MNL, led by Nur Misuari who is presently in Saudi Arabia, has led a two-decade war for independence of the large island of Mindanao in southern Philippines.

After Corazon Aquino came to power, the OIC succeeded in arranging meetings in 1987 between her government and the MNL on the basis of the Tripoli agreement which stipulated comprehensive political autonomy for Muslim regions. It was signed under the sponsorship of Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Senegal.

But Aquino in August proposed a so-called organic act which falls short of the extent of autonomy provided in the 1976 agreement, putting it to the referendum on Sunday.

"The OIC had repeatedly called the attention of the government of the Philippines to the negative consequences likely to arise from such an initiative, which was, paradoxically, taken in violation of the Tripoli agreement of Dec 23, 1976," the OIC statement said.

Death threat for teacher

PARIS, Nov 22, (Reuters): A French headmaster who sparked a national controversy by banning Islamic headscarves in the classroom said today he has received repeated death threats from extremist Islamic groups.

Ernest Chenieres, headmaster of the Gabriel-Havez high school in Creil, north of Paris, told Reuters he had received six menacing letters since he refused to allow three girls to wear their tight-fitting scarves last September.

The issue has captured national headlines

and provoked a heated debate over religion and immigration.

The first letter, with a French postmark, landed on Chenieres' desk in October. Signed Islamic Jihad, it warned him to back down or face the consequences.

"When I refused, I got a second letter, this time threatening me with death," he said.

One of the letters was posted in Algiers, the rest in France. All were signed Islamic Jihad except one, from the Brigade for Islamic

Liberation.

"Since I got the first one I've been taking precautions, there are certain places I don't go at night on my own any more," he said, adding he had not seriously considered asking for police protection.

He said the threats had increased his determination to stick to his policy on headscarves. Chenieres has consistently defended France's century-old secular school system, saying religion should be kept out of the classroom.



What's that ...?

Leading Airman Photographer Graham Meggitt's award winning photograph taken in a fish-eye lens of a frogman with a fish in his mask. Meggitt's of the Command photographic section at HMS Drake, in

Plymouth, England was highly commended for his photograph in the 1989 Peregrin Trophy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Weather hampers balloon flight

MIYAKONOJO, Japan, Nov 22, (AP): British adventurer Richard Branson said today that bad weather is disrupting his plans for a hot-air balloon crossing of the Pacific Ocean, starting from this remote Japanese town.

Branson, founder of the Virgin group of companies, arrived a week ago with at least 60 technicians and assistants in preparation for the attempt.

He and Swedish-born co-pilot Per Lindstrand plan to navigate the 10,000 kilometre (6,200 miles) to California by way of the jet stream. But he said that fast-flowing current of air isn't co-operating.

"The jet stream has slackened off," Lindstrand said today.

He said a storm off the Kamchatka peninsula and another in the Gulf of Alaska have blocked the jet stream, deflecting it south about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometres) off the North American coast.

Planners said the flight would not start until next Monday at the earliest.

"Weather forecasting is a messy business," said Lindstrand, who added that their giant red, white and blue balloon would begin the flight on eight or nine hours notice.

Meanwhile, the balloon waits deflated on a hill in this city of 13,000, where eager residents had hung up tiny balloons along the main street but have since grown restless while waiting for the attempt.

"When people meet on the street lately, they don't say hello anymore. They ask each other when they think the balloon will lift off," said Toshio Maruyama, owner of the Sekinoo Kanko hotel.

"This is the first and probably the last time our town has been in the news world-wide, and we are proud to have something like this happen there. We just wish we knew when liftoff would be."

Miyakonjo, on the southern island of Kyushu, was chosen because it provides safe entry into the jet stream without much chance of the balloon drifting into busy Tokyo airspace. Tokyo is about 900 kilometres (560 miles) to the northeast.

The balloonists said their craft is expected to make a crossing in about four days, cruising at an altitude of more than 11,500 metres (35,000 feet) in the jet stream across the ocean toward the United States.

In 1981, three Americans and a Japanese made the first and only balloon crossing of the Pacific, but that was with a helium-filled craft. Branson and Lindstrand will make their attempt in a pressurised capsule under a hot-air balloon said to be the largest balloon ever built.

It has a 52-metre (172-foot) diameter and is constructed of metallised polyester film bonded to nylon and designed to retain heat during the crossing.

Kidnapped fishermen rescued

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines, Nov 22, (Reuters): Police, backed by navy boats today rescued 14 fishermen abducted by Muslim separatist rebels in the southern Philippines, police said.

Constabulary commander Colonel Jesus Almaden said troops encircled a tiny island near Zamboanga city, 850 kms (530 miles) south of Manila, where the rebels had taken their captives, and rescued the fishermen.

He said a gunfight ensued and the rebels fled by boat. Nobody was injured in the shooting.

Manila typhoon toll 7

MANILA, Nov 22, (AP): At least seven people died and hundreds more were left homeless as typhoon Hunt swept across the main island of Luzon, officials said today.

Hunt weakened into a tropical storm and entered the South China Sea off Pangasinan province after sweeping across the rugged mountains of central Luzon, the Manila weather bureau reported at 2 pm (0600 GMT).

Supervising meteorologist Nannette Lomarda said Hunt, which came ashore early today with peak winds of 160 kilometres (100 miles) an hour, had weakened to 85 kilometres (53 miles) an hour. It was moving west-northwest at 49 kilometres (12 miles) an hour.

Hunt had affected wide areas of the country, threatening the southern tip of Luzon over the weekend before sweeping northwest and hitting the central provinces of Luzon. Reports from disaster relief agencies said at least seven people had died since Sunday.

The office of civil defence said six people drowned when an inter-island motorboat capsized Sunday off Polillo Island, about 96 kilometres (60 miles) east of Manila. Ten other passengers on the boat swam to safety, officials said.

In nearby Quezon province, a 33-year-old woman was killed when a coconut tree fell on her, the office said.

On the central island of Samar, at least 840 people in three coastal villages were left homeless as big waves battered their thatched huts, officials said.

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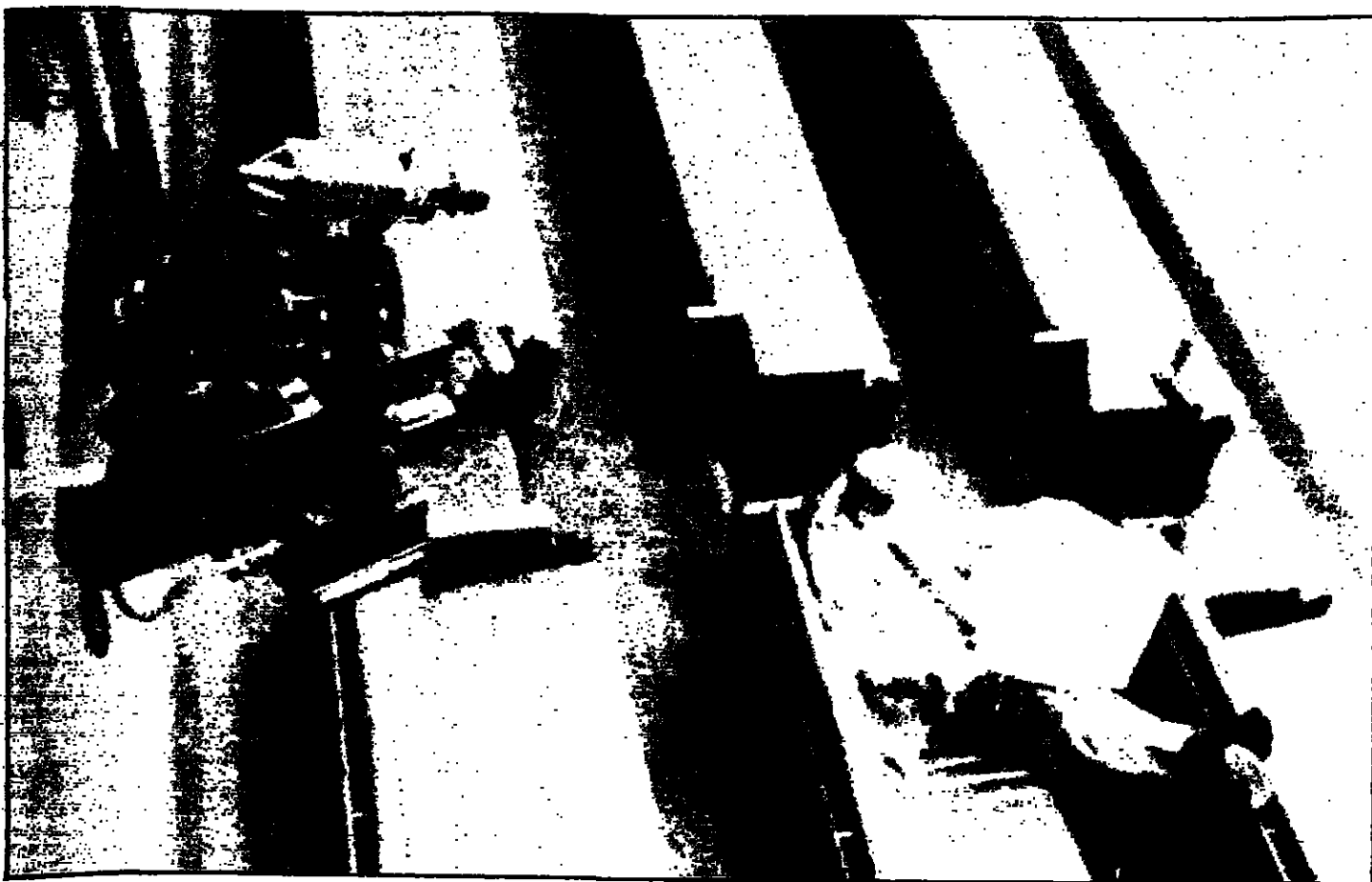
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Labour opposition MP, Joe Ashton, sits on an empty opposition bench in the Commons, Nov 21, under the gaze of remote control TV cameras. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

FORT WASHINGTON, Pennsylvania: Author James Michener announced establishment of a special fund to support young Polish writers during a Sunday breakfast attended by Polish leader Leszek Walicki.

Michener, whose novels include one called "Poland," last year received Poland's highest award in honour of "his respect and affection" for the country.

Walicki joined the Copernicus Society, a Polish-American philanthropic organisation, for the breakfast in the Philadelphia suburb as part of his daylong visit to Pennsylvania.

Michener said the \$400,000 fund will be used to support the publication of books, magazines, newspaper articles and criticism, rejected by commercial publishers.

In 1980, Michener and the Copernicus Society established a similar fund for young American writers at the University of Iowa.

Smoking ban

Bush signs \$11.9b bill

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (UPI): President Bush signed a \$11.9 billion transportation appropriation bill yesterday that bans smoking on virtually all domestic commercial airline flights. The ban will take effect in 90 days.

The smoking restrictions also apply to foreign airlines flying between two destinations in the United States.

The only exception are some six-hour flights to Hawaii and Alaska. The ban replaces a prohibition against smoking on flights of two hours or less that was due to expire in April.

RADNOR, Pennsylvania: Victoria Principal prepared for her role as a blind woman in an upcoming made-for-television movie by wearing a blindfold for two weeks.

"I cooked dinner blindfolded, I baked, I made sandwiches, I scrambled eggs, ate meals, and I even tended to business at my office with my eyes covered," said the former star of television's "Dallas" in an interview in the Nov 25 issue of TV Guide.

In the ABC movie "Blind Witness," Ms Principal plays a determined blind woman who avenges her husband's murder.

The actress said she even slept with a blindfold during her film preparation, and that the most frightening part was in the mornings, "because there's no way to prepare for waking up blind."

During filming in Utah, she wore special contact lenses that distorted her vision and made her legally blind.

"I had to memorize all my locations before we shot a scene," said Ms Principal, who was also executive-producer for the movie.

NEW YORK: Mayor Edward Koch, already signed up as a television commentator, is adding newspaper columnist to the growing list of job titles he will assume when he leaves office in January.

Koch will write a weekly column for the New York Post, the paper's publisher, Peter Kalish, announced in Monday's editions.

"I will be even less inhibited as a columnist than I was as mayor," Koch promised. "The world will be my oyster."

Koch, who will be succeeded by Democrat David Dinkins, has made sure he will not be idle when he leaves office. The three-term mayor has already agreed to teach at New York University and do regular commentaries for local television and radio stations.

First peek at House a hit

LONDON, Nov 22, (AP): The camera work won't win any awards and the plot dragged a bit, but the first television coverage of the House of Commons was generally favourable reviews today.

The cameras took the first peek yesterday at proceedings in Parliament's Lower House, the start of a controversial eight-month experiment.

The British Broadcasting Corp., Independent Television News and Sky Television all reported calls from satisfied viewers.

The first televised session was a debate on a speech given earlier yesterday by Queen Elizabeth II in the House of Lords. The Queen outlined proposed legislation that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government will introduce in the coming year.

The Queen's speech, an annual event carried out amid colourful pageantry, is written by the government of the day. The House of Lords, which has had TV cameras since 1985, is the unelected upper chamber of Parliament.

Independent Television News said in a statement: "The (Commons) pictures are fairly stiff but not as bad as we might have feared. Most of the viewers who have called us said they liked it although one man from Dagenham said it sent him to sleep."

Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at BBC-TV, said the live coverage from the eight remote-controlled cameras was exciting and lively. "We still don't have the full favour of the House because of the restrictions imposed on us, but we were pleased," he added.

The BBC expects big ratings for yesterday's programme but said official viewing figures will not be known for at least a week.

The Times newspaper said in an editorial, "for the great majority who have never seen the Commons at work... the first opportunity to see the Commons as they are made riveting television."

The 650-member Commons, which voted 318-264 in February 1988 to allow television coverage, has appointed an independent company to operate the cameras and sell the pictures to the BBC and other broadcasters.

Mrs Thatcher was among those who opposed letting the cameras in, saying she feared for the good reputation of the House, which is often disrupted by noisy scenes.

The House has ruled that when proceedings get rowdy the cameras must shut the disturbance and focus on House Speaker Bernard Weatherill.

Wide-angle shots are allowed at other times, but the House has said for the most part cameras should go for head-and-shoulders shots of the legislator speaking at any one time.

Unisex designer succumbs to Aids

STOCKHOLM, Nov 22, (Reuters): Sweden's best-known fashion designer, Sigsten Herrgard, who had come to personify the plight of the country's Aids victims, died of the killer disease, his doctor said yesterday.

Herrgard, 46, a trend-setter and society name in Sweden, became a symbol of the struggle against Aids after he went public with his disease in television interviews in July 1987, the first Swedish victim to do so.

Court accepts arms dealer's plea

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP): A federal judge accepted guilty pleas from arms dealer Albert Hakim and a company he operated in the Iran-Contra scandal, after complaining the government is not getting a chance to recover money diverted in the affair.

Hakim pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of providing an illegal gratuity in exchange for several other charges being dropped. The Iranian-born US businessman controlled a complex of companies that assisted President Ronald Reagan administration's covert sales of arms to Iran and the diversion of some of the proceeds to the Nicaraguan rebels known as Contras.

He admitted helping to supplement the salary of dismissed White House aide Oliver North by paying for a security fence at North's home. Hakim faces up to a year in prison and will be sentenced Feb 1.

Hakim was accused of conspiring with his former business partner, Richard V. Secord, to set up a \$200,000 fund for North's family.

The money was placed in a Swiss bank account while North was directing covert sales of arms to Iran and the diversion of more than \$15 million in profits to help the Nicaraguan rebels.

One of the corporations Hakim set up, Lake Resources, pleaded guilty to theft of government property, a felony carrying a fine of up to \$500,000.

US district judge Gerhard Gessell initially rejected the proposed plea bargain, calling it a "charade" that would not require Hakim to make significant admissions or require his corporation to pay money back to the US government.

But after meeting in chambers with prosecutors and defence attorneys, Gessell returned to the courtroom and accepted the plea.

The judge did not say why he changed his mind.

Outside the courtroom, associate independent counsel Stuart Abrams emphasised that the plea agreement does not bar the government from seeking restitution of \$8 million in frozen Swiss bank accounts once controlled by Hakim.

Earlier, Gessell said the plea agreement regarding the corporation "seems to me to be a waiver of any restitution...".



Albert Hakim (Reuters wirephoto)

United States is the victim here."

Gessell said court papers in the plea agreement should have addressed the questions of "who diverted" money from the Iran arms sales to the Contras and "who is responsible."

"I am not getting an admission here of anything except 100 bucks," he complained.

Lake Resources attorney John Humm acknowledged the corporation has been inactive since shortly after the Iran-Contra affair erupted and that the agreement contemplated no restitution of money to the government.

There is no basis "to make the US whole," Gessell had complained, adding that Hakim "got rid of his assets (from Lake Resources) to keep anybody from finding them."

North was convicted on May 4 of three felonies, including accepting an illegal gratuity from Secord.

Ronald Reagan may claim "executive privilege" in an effort to avoid testifying or surrendering other evidence at the Iran-Contra trial of former White House aide John Poindexter, court documents revealed yesterday.

In papers filed with US district judge Harold Greene late Monday, both the Justice Department and Reagan's personal lawyer also asked for more time to respond to a subpoena for documents from the former president to be used in the next Iran-Contra criminal case.

Would-be thug wounded

Mr T kin shoots

CHICAGO, Nov 22, (UPI): An off-duty police officer, the brother and former bodyguard of television and movie star Mr T shot and wounded a man who tried to rob him at south-side currency exchange, authorities said.

The officer, Gustave J. Tero, a patrolman assigned to the police training academy, was waiting to cash his paycheck yesterday when two men tried to rob him, police said.

Tero's brother, Lawrence "Mr T" Tero, played a tough law enforcer with a trademark shaved head in television's "The A Team." Tero struggled with the two robbers and chased one of them into a nearby alley, said police commander Toby Burton. Tero struggled with the man again and shot him in the legs, Burton said.

The second robber and a getaway driver fled and were still at large, Burton said. The wounded man, Nathan Kidd, 20, was hospitalized in fair condition at Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Centre.

The police department's office of professional standards was investigating the shooting to determine if it was justified.

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INTERNATIONAL

Drunken driving, drug charge

Bush's son-in-law held

MAYNARD, Massachusetts, Nov 22, (AP): President George Bush's son-in-law was arrested on drunken driving and drug possession charges after being stopped in his pickup truck, police said.

William Heckin Leblond, 32, estranged husband of Bush's 30-year-old daughter, Dorothy, was stopped on Nov 10 on Route 62 and charged with drunken driving and possession of marijuana, police chief Arner Tibbetts said yesterday.

Tibbetts said he did not know how much marijuana Leblond had or whether any alcohol was found in his car. Leblond spent the night in the Maynard jail before being released on \$25 bail the next morning, Tibbetts said. Leblond, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, separated from his wife of eight years in August.

House passes bill to cut deficit

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP): Congress adjourned for the year early today after a nearly all-night session in which it approved a \$14.7-billion deficit reduction bill and repealed coverage of long-term medical care for the elderly.

On a pair of quick voice votes that belied months of partisan battling on both issues, the Senate sent the measures to President George Bush, who was expected to sign them.

Earlier, the House had voted 272-128 to approve the deficit bill.

After the vote, House leaders made their traditional end-of-session telephone call to Bush.

Debate on the deficit-reduction bill for the current fiscal year was delayed as lawmakers worked out differences on the final shape of the measure.

The package contained some actual savings as well as some only on paper, such as shifting the money-losing postal service off the budget. It also relies heavily on across-the-board cuts triggered last month by the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law, a mechanism most legislators see as an unthinking way of shrinking federal spending.

Lawmakers also became embroiled in a conflict with the Bush administration over whether the executive branch's foreign policy powers should be restricted.

The House stripped language offensive to the White House out of a bill authorizing State Department operations for the next two years and sent the new bill to the Senate hopes of finishing the measure before adjournment. But the legislation became bogged down in the Senate because of a jurisdictional dispute between committees.

The measure contained a provision stemming from the Iran-Contra scandal providing criminal penalties if the administration pressured foreign governments into carrying out policies that break American law. The administration believed the language could tie its hands in discussions with other governments.

The House also passed a series of other measures, including a Senate approval of a resolution condemning violence in El Salvador.

The House — as it has been doing for weeks — insisted that medicare programme benefits for elderly people with long-lasting diseases be completely repealed. Lawmakers rejected Senate language retaining parts of the programme. The Senate decided to finally accept repeal, rather than return home to face senior citizens angry over a surtax they must pay to support the initiative.

Bush signed a \$286-billion military spending bill yesterday that contained the first budget reductions in the Star Wars missile defence plan and a cutback in the B-2 Stealth bomber programme.

Working from a stack of legislation approved by Congress as it rushed to leave town for the year, Bush also signed a measure to guarantee reparations to Japanese-Americans interned in US camps during World War II. The provision contains no immediate money for the estimated 60,000 camp survivors but says that up to \$500 million will be provided in 1991. The US Congress has authorised \$20,000 for each survivor, a total of \$1.2 billion.

The military spending bill provides \$3.8 billion for the Star Wars programme, also known as the strategic defence initiative. That's \$1.1 billion less than Bush requested for fiscal 1990, the first budget reduction in the programme's six-year history.

Bush said he was disappointed by the cut and expressed hope that Congress would support the administration's future requests. Bush yesterday vetoed a bill containing economic sanctions against China because he objected to an unrelated provision.

The House immediately passed a bill without the offending provision and sent it to the Senate, which did not act on it immediately.

Death wish verdict

Court rules in favour

ATLANTA, Nov 22, (AP): Georgia Supreme Court ruled yesterday that a 33-year-old quadriplegic has a constitutional right to withdraw from the breathing apparatus that has kept him alive for four years.

But the court declined to use the case to set non-judicial guidelines for future cases, suggesting that it is a task for the legislature.

In a unanimous opinion, the court said Larry McAfee's right to discontinue the treatment falls under privacy rights guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions.

Those rights outweigh whatever interests the state

has in preserving life, the ruling said.

McAfee suffered a severe spinal cord injury in a 1985 motorcycle accident which left him a quadriplegic. He depends on a ventilator to breathe.

In September, McAfee won a superior court judge's permission to turn off the ventilator himself by activating a timer. But the judge instructed the state to appeal the decision in order to establish non-judicial procedures to guide future cases.

The Supreme Court, which heard arguments in the case only a week ago, declined to go that far.

Secret funds aid senior officials

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 22, (AP): The new UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Thorvald Stoltenberg, said yesterday he sees nothing wrong with senior officials supplementing their income with payments from their government.

"I am, by principle, not against it," said Stoltenberg, who currently is Norway's UN ambassador.

Jean-Pierre Hocke, the previous high commissioner, resigned Oct 24 during a controversy over his use of a "special educational account" for refugees to upgrade his air travel to first class for himself and his wife.

Western governments commonly set up secret funds to supplement the income of their nationals who are senior international civil servants.

This violates International Civil Service Commission rules forbidding governments to supplement or deduct from their nationals' pay, which theoretically could compromise their independence.

Without such prerequisites, however, few talented Western officials would accept the posts, which pay poorly compared with private industry or government. The high commissioner receives over \$105,000.

Stoltenberg said he did not expect to be offered a fund by the Norwegian government, however. "A fund? That has not been discussed at all with my government," he said.

"You mean like the fund Harding got?" he asked, referring to the "educational" fund set up by Denmark for the use of its former Prime Minister Poul Harting, who was high commissioner before Hocke.

"I think it was a decision by them (the Danish government) to get the man, Mr Harting, a former prime minister of Denmark, to this important job," he said.

"This is a practice in many places in the UN system," he added.

Stoltenberg said he was unaware the practice violated international civil service rules.

On Monday, the General Assembly unanimously confirmed Stoltenberg as high commissioner for refugees. The office cares for more than 12 million refugees world-wide, including five million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, more than one million in southern Africa, one million in the Horn of Africa and several hundred thousand in Southeast Asia and Central America.

It has an annual budget of \$500 million and a staff of 2,300.

In 1985, Stoltenberg, 58, was a highly favoured candidate for the position, but Hocke was the backing of the US State Department and edged him out.

Hocke was criticised for financial mismanagement and favouritism. He admitted using the money to get better airfares, but denied he misused UN funds.

Only the secretary-general is authorised to travel first class and the United Nations is investigating the matter.

Hocke and others have said that the fund, although labelled for "education," in fact was intended to help augment his salary.

A Swiss television report said internal documents showed Hocke had drawn \$300,000 since 1987 from the education account to upgrade his flights from business to first class.

Psychologists face censure in Kitty case

BOSTON, Nov 22, (AP): Four psychologists who speculated publicly about why governor's wife Kitty Dukakis drank rubbing alcohol have been chastised by a state licensing board which says they may have violated ethical principles.

The state board of registration of psychologists last week sent letters to the psychologists criticising them for comments published on Nov 10 in the Boston Globe, the newspaper said yesterday.

The Globe's article came after Mrs Dukakis, a recovering alcoholic who is married to Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, was hospitalised

for drinking rubbing alcohol.

Mrs Dukakis broke down in part because she was carrying all the emotional burdens of the Dukakis marriage, the article suggested. It quoted psychologist David Kantor as recommending the governor resign to give the couple the privacy they need to address their personal problems.

If the board files a complaint following a preliminary inquiry, which is under way, the psychologists could be censured or lose their licenses, the Globe said.



Two of several US military personnel trapped inside the Sheraton Hotel when FMLN rebels took it over, go through the hotel to assure that there were no more rebels present. (Reuter wirephoto)

Rebels lift siege of Salvador hotel

Bush sent rescue force

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 22, (AP): A group of US military personnel left a luxury hotel in San Salvador today, ending a 28-hour siege that began when leftist guerrillas took over part of the complex.

The rebels apparently abandoned the hotel overnight, leaving behind the US soldiers who had barricaded themselves in one part of the complex.

The soldiers ran in a crouched position, carrying M-16 rifles with grenades on their belts, from the main hotel building to waiting police pickup trucks that sped off with them.

Reports of the number of soldiers trapped overnight in the building varied from seven to 12. In Washington, a senior government official expressed "delight and relief" the siege was over.

President George Bush earlier announced that he had sent a special US military counter-terrorist force to El Salvador to help end the siege of the hotel by leftist guerrillas.

Bush said the US special operations force joined a similar Salvadoran force at the hotel yesterday morning and had been ready to move in if necessary.

"We have specially trained forces. They are trained to do this kind of mission. They were put on alert. They were sent and they performed their mission and thank God they didn't have to fire a shot," he told reporters aboard his plane on the way to a visit in Memphis, Tennessee.

"I can tell you I'm very pleased that all the Americans have been released and there has been no loss of life," the President said. He said Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani was consulted on the move but did not specifically request the help of the US military.

The leftist guerrillas managed to avoid a confrontation with Salvadoran soldiers surrounding the El Salvador Sheraton Hotel, which is not part of the US-based hotel chain.

The rebels seized part of the hotel yesterday during an attack on the wealthy Escalon neighbourhood north of San Salvador, their latest action in an offensive against government troops that began on Nov 11.

At least 1,000 people have been killed in the offensive, one of the biggest in the rebels' decade-old war against a succession of US-backed governments.

Earlier today, the US military personnel remained holed up near a stairwell on the fourth floor of the five-storey "VIP tower" while government troops conducted a house-to-house search in Escalon for any rebels. Rifle shots rang out in the area until 30 minutes before the US personnel sprinted from the hotel.

Diplomatic sources in San Salvador have said the men were eight Green Berets, although they were dressed in sports shoes, jeans and sports shirts. The men said they were from Fort Bragg in North Carolina, but they refused to give their names, say how many they were, or confirm they were Green Berets.

"That's not an important question," said one of the Americans, who served as spokesman, when asked whether they were Green Berets. "We're all OK. We got some sleep during the night, but there was sporadic firing."

When guerrillas seized part of the hotel annex yesterday, the Americans, civilians guests and the secretary general of the Organisation of American States were inside.

Salvadoran soldiers surrounded the building, and OAS chief Joao Baena Soares and the civilians were evacuated later.



Thanksgiving Tyson

Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson (R) hugs this little girl in the Caribe Democratic Club in Spanish Harlem as he and promoter Don King give a free turkey to the girl's family for their Thanksgiving Day dinner. Tyson and King handed out 1,000 turkeys throughout the city. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nureyev steps down: Rudolf Nureyev, the Soviet-born dancer who helped put Paris on the map of international ballet, resigned as director of the Paris Ballet Company, the opera said today.

A statement issued after a meeting between Nureyev and opera president Pierre Bergé said the two "decided mutually that Nureyev should step down as dance director."

The statement said the opera would retain the 51-year-old dancer as "premier choreographer," a post created especially for him "to insure the presence of his productions at the Paris opera."

Nureyev had been artistic director since 1983. (AP)

Toe-sucking bandit caught: Police in Joliet, Illinois, say a short looter, resulted in the capture of a suspect who allegedly robbed his victims, then sucked their toes before running away.

Twenty-two-year-old Jeffrey Harris of Joliet was arrested Monday, after two police detectives pulled his car over and he fled on foot.

Police said Harris had been a suspect since October in several burglaries in which the bandit robbed people in their homes and on the street, sucked the victims' toes and fled with their shoes.

Police said they could not explain the odd behaviour. (AP)

Airline passengers vote to fly: Two passengers from an American Airlines flight say the pilot, confronting bad weather, left it up to the passengers whether to continue to New York or return to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

On a show of hands, the passengers voted to continue. The weather during the flight last Thursday became so bad, however, that the plane had to land about 60 miles (95 kilometres) away, at Stewart Airport near Newburgh, New York. The rest of the trip was by bus.

American airlines said it is investigating the report involving flight 492 and declined further comment. (AP)

Bombs discovered under highway: Ten US bombs dropped over Germany during World War II were discovered by construction workers near Cologne, a state highway official said.

The bombs — the heaviest weighing about 500 pounds — were found at the base of a bridge, the official said yesterday. He said they collectively packed enough explosive power to devastate the intersection and cause extensive damage across a wide area.

"The 500 pound bomb is a real monster," the official said.

The bombs were dropped at various places and times in Germany during World War II but failed to detonate. They were later collected and "deliberately placed at the bridge by Nazi soldiers," said the official, who speculated the Nazis had planned to use them to blow up the bridge to slow the advance of American and British troops.

Youngest drug war victim buried: Seven-year-old "Ligeia" was buried Monday in donated clothes and casket. Only a handful of mourners paid tribute to the 46th victim in two years of metro Atlanta's drug war.

Terrell Branzell weaver was killed Nov 11 in a hail of gunfire outside his grandmother's apartment. His two cousins, ages 2 and 10, and a 16-year-old neighbour were wounded by the shots fired from a passing van.

Later, Glen Weems, a 39-year-old grocery clerk, surrendered to police and was charged with murder and aggravated assault in the incident.

Police said the gunman may have been shooting at the teenager, perhaps angered by a drug deal gone bad. (UPI)

Bureaucratic error

\$1m loan to Canada strip club

OTTAWA, Nov 22, (UPI): The Canadian government, which four years ago expelled a defence minister from the cabinet for visiting a strip club in West Germany, yesterday admitted lending more than \$1 million to a thriving strip club frequented by senior federal bureaucrats.

Industry Minister Harvie Andre told parliament an error was made by federal bureaucrats who believed the establishment, located in the Quebec city of Hull, about five minutes from the Canadian capital of Ottawa, was a bar-disco.

Andre said a federal government policy forbids loans to strip bars. He said the Federal Busi-

ness Development Bank, which provides loans to small businesses, made an error in approving the loan.

Radio-Canada, the French-language television network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., reported late Monday that the federal business development bank made two loans totalling \$1.07 million to Andre Frechette's Le Lido strip club.

The club is located near a huge federal government complex in Hull and draws senior bureaucrats, according to Frechette.

Opposition liberal politician Don Bourdria said he was outraged by the loans.

Love church couple jailed

ROCK ISLAND, Illinois, Nov 22, (AP): A couple were sent to prison for bilking thousands of lonely men out of \$4.5 million with tales of a paradise inhabited by nude "love angels."

The two leaders of the Church of Love carried out a "cold-blooded" scheme that "made fools" of their 31,000 victims, US district judge Michael Mithun said at sentencing on Monday.

Donald Lowry, 60, founder of the sex-fantasy scam, apologised before he was sentenced to 27 years in prison. Pamela St. Charles, 26, declared herself the scam's "biggest victim" before she was sentenced to six years in prison.

Death squad row mounts

JANNESBURG, Nov 22, (Reuters): The city of two murdered human rights lawyers demanded an independent judicial inquiry into allegations that the South African police carried out political murders.

Mbasa Mxenge, 25, demanded President F. de Klerk set up an independent judicial inquiry into the killings of his father Griffiths and his mother Victoria.

"I would hope that the law will take its course, and any attempts at a cover-up will be exposed by De Klerk in the spirit of renewal and reform," Mxenge said in a statement.

Former police captain Dirk Coetzee said in a newspaper interview last week that he commanded a death squad that carried out a string of political killings at home and abroad

from 1980 to 1982.

He said one of the killings was the hacking to death of Griffiths Mxenge near Durban in 1981. He said his men and had orders to "make it look like a robbery."

Coetzee gave no details about the 1985 shooting of Victoria Mxenge but Mbasa Mxenge said that Coetzee's allegations provided a possible explanation of both killings.

He said a judicial inquiry which has been widely demanded by newspaper commentators of almost all political persuasions, was the least that could be expected.

An internal inquiry headed by a public prosecutor and a police general has already

been into Coetzee's allegations, some of which have been supported by two black former policemen. But legal experts say it is unacceptable for the police to investigate themselves.

Police have failed to solve any of the murders of about 60 anti-apartheid activists inside the country since 1978.

Four anti-apartheid lawyers were due to present verbal and forensic evidence of police killings to the internal inquiry today and reiterated calls for a judicial inquiry.

Several senior white officers among the 21 policemen named by Coetzee as having had a role in the killings have ridiculed his accusations. Coetzee named 14 officers including three generals.

Blacks saved from gallows

TOWN, Nov 22, (Reuters): A South African court, a ruling widely praised as enlightened, has sentenced five men to less than two years in prison for a murder for which they had been sentenced to death.

The judgment was hailed by human rights lawyers, about 140 of whom staged a demonstration outside the Johannesburg supreme court today to protest against executions.

The contrast between the death sentence and several months in prison for the same offence emphasised the fallibility of South African law, said liberal lawyer Essa Moosa.

The discrepancy, apparently present only on the judge's bench, is "frightening," he said, as the court sentenced the five men to 20 months each in prison yesterday for their part in the 1985 killing of Sipho Zanelo.

Azwandile Gwebu, Lundi na, Theminkosi Pressfoot, wandile Mainzi and Monde gave spent two years on death for taking part in the killing of Zanelo, who was burned to death with a petrol-filled car tyre.

They were not found directly responsible for her death at the trial of a nation-wide black strike against the white rule, were convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Their convictions were overturned earlier this year because of the judge's assessors did not attend the sentencing as required.

At their second trial Jansen and Monde were convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Jansen was sentenced to death for his role in the killing of Zanelo, while Monde was sentenced to death for his role in the killing of Zanelo.

The person in a group follows a group and becomes anonymous, being inclined to do things which under normal circumstances he would not do," Jansen said in his ruling.

Lawyers fighting against the death penalty said Jansen's ruling was a landmark decision, only the second judge in South Africa to accept the principle of deindividuation.

Four black men were stabbed to death in unrest in Johannesburg, police said today. The police opened fire with shotguns, pistols and tear-gas in three north-west incidents around the city, their latest in a series of attacks on black property or security forces.

Police said in a report on the biggest in the city's history, a riot in the city's central business district, in which 1,000 people were injured and 15 killed.

Journalist dies in Peru

LIMA, Nov 22, (AP): The body of a US citizen found near a junction in the city has been tentatively identified as that of a reporter for the Tampa Tribune newspaper.

The body was found in a drainage ditch in the city of Lima, where it had been lying for several days.

Police said the body was that of a man who was researching stories on cocaine trafficking and leftist guerrillas, was last seen Friday as he left for the airport outside Lima.

At least 15 Peruvian journalists were killed in Peru's civil war between the army and the Shining Path guerrillas, police said.

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Lanka warns illegal militia

India behind Tamil offensive: Premadasa

COLOMBO, Nov 22, (Agencies): Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne threatened today to "smash" anyone who provoked Sri Lanka's security forces in the country's strife-torn eastern region.

"We do not want to be drawn into a battle but the security forces have orders to smash anyone who provokes them," he said in parliament.

Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister, was replying to a question about the security situation in the eastern Ampara district.

About 300 people, including security forces personnel, Tamil rebels and civilians, were reported killed when an illegal Tamil militia attacked five police stations and an army camp at Ampara last weekend.

The government has said the illegal militia, known as the Tamil National Army (TNA), was raised by Varatharaja Perumal, chief minister of the Tamil-dominated northeast provincial council with the help of Indian troops.

The minister said the government was facing up to the challenge of the illegal army and had taken steps to protect the Muslim, Tamil and Sinhalese people living in the area.

Asked whether he intended to bring in Indian troops to stop the fighting in Ampara, Wijeratne said he was trying to get them out of the neighbouring Batticaloa district. He said he did not want Indian troops back in Ampara.

Ampara was the first district to be vacated by Indian troops making a phased withdrawal from the island.

India has said it will try to pull back the remaining 30,000 soldiers from the island by the end of December.

Indian helicopters yesterday flew in arms and ammunition to the TNA, Sri Lankan security sources said.

Officials quoted President Ranasinghe Premadasa as telling Members of Parliament on Monday that India — which has about 50,000 soldiers deployed in northeastern Sri Lanka — is instigating the combat in eastern Ampara district.

There were no reports of new fighting, which erupted on Friday when five police stations were attacked by the Tamil National Army.

"The violence unleashed by this illegal army ... was a deliberate attempt to provoke the Sri Lankan security forces into a confrontation, and then show (they) are persecuting the Tamil-speaking people and justify the continuing presence of Indian troops here," the officials quoted Premadasa as saying.

"With these provocations, they expect the Sri Lankan forces to retaliate," the President reportedly said. "The government will wait and see how things develop."

New Delhi's troops are trying to enforce a 1987 pact that aims at giving the mostly Hindu Tamil minority some self-rule to quell a rebellion against the government controlled by majority Buddhist Sinhalese. At Colombo's behest, India on Sept 14 agreed to try to extract all its troops by Dec 31, but it reserved the option of remaining if it felt Tamils were still endangered.

Premadasa's charges of Indian involvement were bolstered by reports from Sri Lankan security sources, who reported "regular foreign helicopter movement" in Ampara, from which India withdrew its forces under a phased pullout plan.

Soldiers wearing green caps, alighted from the choppers and carried mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and various other arms and supplies to Tamil National Army camps in the jungle-strewn area, they said.

The sources said the aircraft were Indian, but they were unclear about the identity of the alighting troops.

There was no immediate comment from New Delhi about Colombo's allegations.

M.H.M. Ashroff, the leader of the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress, said in Parliament that the Tamil attackers executed 43 Muslim police officers from a squad of 62 officers who surrendered at one station.

"This is an absolute betrayal of the trust Muslims had in the provincial government," said the legislator, who claimed the Muslims were shot, bayoneted and left to be eaten by dogs.



Newly crowned Kraglicka (centre) is flanked by first runner-up Leanne Caputo (right) and second runner-up Monica Mejia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pole position

Crowned Miss World

HONG KONG, Nov 22, (AP): A 24-year-old tourism student from Poland was crowned Miss World 1989 at the annual beauty pageant today.

Aneta Kraglicka, the first eastern European beauty to win the title, was crowned by last year's winner, Linda Petrusdottir of Iceland.

The blonde, blue-eyed Kraglicka also won the Miss Europe title for contestants from the European continent.

First runner-up was Miss Canada, Leanne Caputo, a teacher. Miss Colombia, Monica, a 20-year-old model, was second runner-up.

The 5-foot, 7-1/2-inch (171 cm) Kraglicka, who said her hobbies included gymnastics and jazz dancing, received about 370,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$47,435) in cash.

Among the 10 finalists were Miss USA, Jill Schiffert, and Miss United Kingdom, Suzanne Younger. Miss Thailand, Prathumrat Woramall, took the Miss Asia title.

Also among the 78 contestants was Anna Gorbunova, the first Soviet beauty ever to enter the 38-year-old pageant. The 22-year-old secretary was chosen earlier by the press as Miss Photogenic.

Miss Belgium, Greet Rasmackers, was voted Miss Personality by her fellow contestants.

Jumbo mistakes road for runway

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): A British Airways jumbo jet was forced to abort a landing at London's Heathrow airport after mistaking a busy highway for the runway in thick fog, aviation officials said today.

The 747 jet, arriving from Brisbane, Australia, last morning with 255 passengers on board, made a second approach and landed without further incident, an airline spokesman said.

Eyewitness reports said the jumbo began its landing approach almost directly above a road crowded with four lanes of morning rush-hour traffic.

A spokesman for Britain's civil aviation authority said it would investigate the incident. "We'll look at it and decide whether any safety implications can be drawn from it," he said.

The Daily Mail newspaper said the jet came within seconds of crash landing on an hotel. The Boeing 747 was within 100 feet of the building when the pilot aborted his descent and went into a steep climb. The Daily Mail revealed.

The daily quoting witnesses said that the aircraft emerged from low cloud onto the north side of the airport, hundreds of feet off line from the two-mile long runway, heading for an administrative building and the Penta Hotel.

Collor de Mello, Lula square up for two-man runoff

BRASILIA, Brazil, Nov 22, (AP): The government yesterday announced the final results of the first round of Brazil's presidential election, confirming Fernando Collor de Mello and Luis Inacio Lula da Silva as the top two vote-getters.

Collor de Mello, of the rightist National Reconstruction Party, led the 21-candidate field with 20,609,009 votes, 28.52 per cent, after more than 82 million votes were counted by the Superior Electoral Court.

Da Silva, of the socialist-oriented Workers' Party, had 11,622,673 votes, 16.08 per cent, electoral court spokesman Risteu Tannamini said.

Populist Leonel Brizola, of the leftist Democratic Labour Party, was a close third with 11,168,228 votes,

15.45 per cent, he said.

The difference between Da Silva and Brizola, who battled vote by vote for the chance to advance to a second round, two-man runoff on Dec 17, was 454,445 votes.

Sao Paulo Sen. Mario Covas, of the centre-left Brazilian Social Democracy Party, came in a solid fourth with 7,790,392 votes. Pro-business candidate Paulo Maluf, of the conservative Social Democratic Party, finished fifth with 5,986,575 votes.

More than 17 per cent of the electorate cast blank ballots, a high percentage even by Brazilian standards, Tannamini said. Voting is mandatory for Brazilians between 18 and 69.



Mourning

Thousands of mourners accompanied the body of slain Basque deputy Jon "Josu" Muguruza through the streets of Bilbao, Spain yesterday as demonstrators around the Basque region burned barricades and closed businesses in protest of his death.

Muguruza, elected to parliament Oct 29 on the Herri Batasuna (Popular Union) Party ticket, was killed Monday by two suspected right-wing gunmen as he sat in a Madrid restaurant with other Basque legislators of the radical coalition.

His body, applauded by about 5,000 supporters waving Basque flags and chanting anti-government slogans, was carried to city hall for a lying-in-state. It was to remain there until later today, when Muguruza was to be eulogised at an open-air rally and then cremated at a municipal cemetery.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Cross boycotts talks: The league of Red Cross societies said on Wednesday it was pulling out of an AIDS conference in San Francisco next year because of discriminatory US visa policies against people infected with the disease.

A statement from the league's Geneva headquarters said current US regulations forbid granting visas to people suffering from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or infected with the HIV virus that causes it. (Reuters)

UNFPA denies charges: The head of the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) took strong exception on Wednesday to charges it supported abortion in China and said she was disappointed the United States had decided not to renew its support of the fund.

Dr Nafis Sadik said in a statement the UNFPA did not support abortion programmes in China or any other country and would never approve of coercion in family planning or any other programmes. (Reuters)

Royal security to cost more: Security for the Duke and Duchess of York's new home at Windsor, outside London, will cost more than 300,000 pounds a year, British police disclosed on Wednesday.

One sergeant and 12 constables will provide 24-hour protection at the house, which is still being built. The royal couple plan to move in next summer, the British media said. (Kuma)

Bid to stop new nationalism flareup: Authorities in Soviet Georgia in a bid to head off a new outbreak of nationalism have agreed to examine the status of one of their regions, the leader of the local popular front said on Tuesday.

Workers in the south Ossetia region have been on strike more than a month and some people there were beginning to take up arms, front president Alan Chokhiev said.

Workers in the region, home to 100,000 people, want to be joined to North Ossetia, across the border in Russia, and the whole unified region to be upgraded to be a full Soviet republic. (Reuters)

Hearing on Panama coup: Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega has killed more than 70 soldiers and perhaps more than 100 in the weeks following an abortive coup against him, representative Ike Skelton, Democrat of Missouri, said Tuesday.

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Turning point

The Princess of Wales talking with Delroy, one of the residents at the £650,000 rehabilitation centre which she opened in Birmingham, England. The centre has been set up by the drugs, drink and mental health charity Turning Point, to help young people. (Reuters wirephoto)

Skelton chaired a closed-door hearing of a House armed services committee panel on Monday evening that heard from Gen Maxwell Thurman, commander of the US Southern Command in Panama, on the job just three days when the coup took place on Oct 3.

17 rebels, 2 soldiers killed in Bogota: At least 17 guerrillas and two soldiers were killed in scattered battles, marking November as the month of heaviest fighting this year, the military has announced.

Battles between leftist rebels and security forces since Nov 1 have claimed the lives of 112 insurgents and 22 soldiers, according to military statistics released Tuesday.

Suspected trafficker captured: Police captured a fugitive wanted in the United States on drug trafficking charges and, separately, seized 600 pounds (270 kg) of cocaine when a drug-laden plane made an emergency landing in Colombia's Atlantic state, authorities said.



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Slain president was longtime peace advocate

BEIRUT, Nov 22. (Agencies): Lebanese President Rene Muawad, killed in a car bomb assassination today, was a conciliator who tried to restore Lebanese peace and unity after 14 years of civil war.

He was murdered one day after he told Lebanon, on the eve of their 46th independence anniversary, that their divided country was close to peace.

In his first and only speech to the nation since being elected on Nov 5 by Christians and Muslims, parliamentary deputies, Muawad said peace was coming despite the men who actively opposed it.

He vowed to save Lebanon "whatever the consequences and sacrifices."

The 64-year-old Maronite Christian became the second Lebanese head of state to be assassinated. In 1982 President-elect Bashir Gemayel was killed by a massive bomb planted at the offices of his father's Phalange Party.

Muawad, a low-key politician from a fierce

north Lebanon mountain clan, died from the blast of a powerful car bomb which ripped through his motorcade in West Beirut.

He was struggling to form a national unity government to end Lebanon's strife.

His prime minister and the speaker of parliament were in the same motorcade but escaped unharmed.

Muawad's election under an Arab League peace plan was backed by most international and regional powers, but strongly opposed by Christian army chief General Michel Aoun.

Aoun said yesterday that what Lebanon needed was not a President who would hand over what was left of the country.

"We know that such a President will be a tool for the occupying forces. This is why we rejected the hostage President just as we refused to be a false witness to the assassination of the country," Aoun said.

Muawad told the Lebanese he was determined to unite their country, torn by 14 years of

civil war.

The soft-spoken veteran politician from the town of Zghorta in Syrian-held north Lebanon, was known as a pragmatic and lacklustre deputy who maintained good ties across the Lebanese Christian-Muslim divide.

He was a frequent visitor to neighbouring Syria which supported his election, carried out in Syrian-held territory.

Muawad opposed Israeli political and military involvement in Lebanon and had demanded Israel withdrawal from a border strip set up as a "security zone" in the south after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

In the short period he was in office, Muawad was unable to spread his government's hold beyond Syrian-controlled regions and a part of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

An early advocate of national reconciliation, Muawad had taken part in the 20-member "national dialogue committee" formed in Sept 1975 to find a settlement to the civil war, then

five months old.

"Violence cannot solve problems. Dialogue is the only way to find solutions," he told the committee at the time.

But that peace effort collapsed, as have many others since.

The Muawad family, and the Issa Khoury clan to which his wife Naila belongs, are allied with the powerful Frangiehs in the northeastern region.

The Frangiehs, who have their own marada, or giants, militia, are headed by former president Frangieh.

The future president spent his first year of his parliamentary term as an exile in the Syrian port city of Latakia after a member of a rival family accused him of taking part in an inter-clan clash in June 1957 near Zghorta in which 16 people were killed.

The house refused demands it strip Muawad of his parliamentary immunity. He returned to Lebanon in 1958, shortly after newly elected

president Fuad Chahab dropped charges against him for "lack of undisputed evidence."

Later, the witness who had testified against Muawad withdrew his allegation, saying it was "politically motivated."

Muawad was born in Zghorta, a Maronite town about 40 miles north of Beirut that has been controlled by the Syrian army since 1976.

Zghorta is also the hometown of former president Suleiman Frangieh who ruled Lebanon between 1970 and 1976.

His debut in Lebanon's political scene came the same year he opened his law office when he was elected a parliamentary deputy from his hometown. He remained in the legislature until his election as president and served in three Lebanese cabinets as post and telecommunications minister in 1961, finance minister in 1969 and finally as education minister in 1980.

At the time of his election, friend Zeina Miskawi said, "No one can hate Rene. He is a chameleon who speaks everybody's language ...

like a professional diplomat."

His high school teacher, 70-year-old Josef Naser said Muawad was known for his politeness, elegance and quiet nature. "Every one liked Rene," Naser said. "Unlike boys who come from Zghorta, Rene always stayed away from boys' troubles."

Naser said Muawad has never engaged himself in old feuds between his family and other powerful clans, like the Frangieh and Doweihis in Zghorta.

"His quiet nature is also reflected in his political attitude," said a veteran journalist who covered Muawad's activities in the parliament.

However he also remembered Muawad as avoiding controversy by fence-sitting on most contentious issues.

The moderate parliamentarian who never indulged in the factional bloodshed in Lebanon, had strong views about the Muslim-Christian co-existence in Lebanon.

Kabul extends state of alert

ISLAMABAD, Nov 22. (Reuters): Afghanistan's Soviet-backed President Najibullah yesterday extended a state of emergency for six months to combat what he called a continuing foreign interventionist threat.

A presidential decree issued in the Afghan capital Kabul said the intervention by Pakistan and its supporters had become severe recently and that fresh arms had been supplied to Afghan rebels, the official Kabul radio said.

The emergency, which has been in force since February, had been extended "to restore foreign intervention, defend our beloved homeland and maintain peace," the decree said.

Pakistan hosts an estimated three million Afghan war refugees and the main Western-backed rebel groups but denies giving them military aid.

The Kabul broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, quoted the decree as saying the rebels were being encouraged to mount military and economic pressure on the government, citing their efforts to block highways ahead of winter.

Najibullah first proclaimed the state of emergency on Feb 18 after the last of more than 100,000 Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan under UN-brokered Geneva accords.

The Afghan rebels plan to free two Soviet soldiers captured during the civil war in the first such POW release since the Red Army withdrew from Afghanistan, officials said today.

But one of the prisoners has previously refused to go.

The two Soviet soldiers will be reunited with their mothers in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar for the first time in over three years, said Vladimir Ivanov, a Soviet embassy spokesman in Islamabad.

"We don't know exactly when yet, but I think it will be within a week," Ivanov said.

He said the mothers are expected to arrive in Pakistan this weekend with Iona Andronov, head of a private organisation called Nadezhda (hope) which works for the release of Soviet POWs from Afghanistan.

The two soldiers will be released through the International Committee of the Red Cross with the Pakistan Foreign Ministry acting as mediator, officials said. Rebel sources confirmed the plan, but gave no further details.

Ivanov said the two army privates, identified as Andrei Lopukh and Valery Prokopychuk, were captured by the anti-communist Muslim rebels in 1986.

US, Israel block ME conference

Arafat sends message to Bush

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 22. (Agencies): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday the United States and Israel opposed the convening of an international peace conference on the basis of a formula laid down by the General Assembly.

In a report to convene a conference between all the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute the secretary-general wrote that "...sufficient agreement does not exist, either within the Security Council or among the parties to the conflict, to permit the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East as called for in resolution 43/176."

The report quoted the views of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the PLO which favour a peace conference as well as the views of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Alluding to the United States, which is involved in its own peace efforts in the Middle East, the president of the Security Council, Chinese Ambassador Li Luyue, told Perez de Cuellar: "One member of the council indicated it could not support the convening of an international peace conference in accordance with the formula contained in resolution 43/176 as this resolution failed to address the centrality of direct negotiations among the parties and purported to determine in advance the outcome of issues which must be resolved in the course of negotiations."

Li Luyue added that the same council member believed a conference could, at an appropriate time, facilitate direct negotiations, but that the time was not right.

Israel told the secretary-general it had long advocated direct negotiations but that the proposed international conference was designed to serve as a substitute.

Perez de Cuellar said he was "deeply worried by the fact that time is passing and that opportunities that have emerged in the past 12 months might slip away."

US President George Bush has received a message from Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO, that does not substantially alter Middle East peace efforts, a White House spokesman said today.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Arafat had sent an oral message through the US embassy in Tunis that "relates to the Middle East peace process."

"We won't reflect on the content of the message," Fitzwater said. "There are no plans at this time for the President to respond - the situation is not measurably altered."

Egypt received yesterday the PLO's reply to a US peace plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, Egyptian and Palestinian officials said.

The reply was delivered to Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid by Gamal El-Sourany, a member of the PLO's executive committee.

France's Middle East policy is both pro-Palestinian and pro-Arab, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir complained today as he wound up an official visit to Paris.

Muawad assassinated

(Continued from Page 1)

the peace accord that Parliament approved Oct 22 after 23 days of deliberations in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif under the auspices of the Arab League.

Muawad designated Hos on Nov 13 to form a national reconciliation government to implement the accord, which gives the Muslim majority an equal share of power with the Christians.

The three politicians were heading to their homes from an Independence Day ceremony in the Sanayeh district of Syrian-ruled west Beirut when

the explosion rocked the city. Police said those killed apart from Muawad were six Syrian soldiers and eight Lebanese troops and officers assigned to guard the President, including his Aide de Camp Col Joseph Ramay, and nine civilians, three of them women.

"The President's death was instantaneous," said a police spokesman. Muawad's body was taken to the morgue of the American University of Beirut pending funeral arrangements.

He is survived by a wife, Naila, and two children, 23-year-old Rima, a law student in Paris, and 17-year-

old Michel, in his last year of high school, also in Paris. They were expected to arrive in Beirut via Damascus for the funeral which has been set for Saturday.

Hos' press adviser, Samir Mansour said the premier-designate and Hussein were holding crisis talks with top aides to set an early date for a Parliament session to elect a successor to Muawad.

He said Hos discussed the assassination and its impact on peacekeeping efforts in telephone contacts with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

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Lanka to decide on Israel link: The Sri Lanka government will soon decide on the question of continuing the presence of the Israeli interests section in the country, Foreign Minister Ranjana Wijeratne told Parliament yesterday.

Answering a question raised by an opposition lawmaker, Wijeratne said the government was already looking into the matter.

The Israelis were brought to the country to assist in security work and also to help in the agriculture and rehabilitation sectors, said Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister. (Kuna)

Pak-Iran accord on drug war: Iranian Interior Minister Abdullah Nouri returned home from Pakistan yesterday after concluding an accord for co-operation in an anti-narcotics campaign along the two countries' common border, the official Islamic republic news agency reported.

He disclosed that he concluded a security agreement last night with his counterpart, Airzaz Ahsan, that deals mainly with "anti-drug campaign and border security."



A general view of the site where a car bomb exploded in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rescue workers and a policeman holding a pistol rescue a wounded man after the bomb explosion in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)



Policemen stand near the wrecked car of Lebanese President Rene Muawad who was killed in the car bomb explosion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Terrorist killing denounced

Lebanon back to square one

Arab world in despair

(Continued from Page 1)

not intervene in Lebanon following Muawad's death, unless there was a Syrian or other threat along its northern border.

Shamir, who is presently visiting France, issued a statement in Paris through his adviser Avi Pazner, calling the assassination "a continuation of the Lebanese tragedy that has been going on for 14 years now."

French President Francois Mitterrand praised Muawad's courage and patriotism, saying "he knew the risks he took."

French Junior Foreign Minister Ed Ige Avic said: "More than ever before, the Lebanese need to unite to assure the peace and sovereignty of their country."

Italy and Spain expressed outrage.

Britain condemned the assassination as a bitter blow to reconciliation efforts and appealed to all Lebanese to exercise "the utmost restraint at this dark hour."

Algeria, which played a key part in drawing up the peace plan, urged parliament to find a successor quickly.

"We hope the Lebanese people who have suffered yet another trial will not let themselves be shaken," Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali said.

Jordan's Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker voiced sorrow. "It's a great setback for the stability and progress in Lebanon that we had hoped was taking place," he said.

Egypt urged the Lebanese to unite for peace. A statement by the Egyptian presidency later warned that the killing "portends dire consequences, threats to the march of reconstruction and opens the door against violence, destruction and blood-letting."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, which maintains a

TUNIS, Nov 22. (Reuters): The assassination of Lebanese President Rene Muawad 17 days after taking office threw Arab leaders and diplomats into despair.

It shattered the most hopeful and broadly supported joint Arab effort to resolve the conflict at the core of 14 years of civil war in Lebanon.

"It's a tragedy. Whenever we take one step forward, we take five steps back," said an ambassador to the Arab League closely involved in the peace initiative.

"It's shocking. We're back to square one," said a senior official at Jordan's Foreign Ministry.

Syria, which had backed Muawad's election, indirectly accused Christian Army Chief General Michel Aoun of responsibility for killing the president.

"The hand of betrayal and treason has reached the martyr President Rene Muawad. This ugly crime against Lebanon and its legitimacy followed a series of threats by the rebellious officer," said the official Syrian news agency Sana in reference to Aoun.

Muawad's election on Nov 5 crowned a sophisticated peace drive that restored the Arabs' self-confidence in their ability to solve their own problems.

The bomb that killed Muawad appeared to have defeated or at least set back for many months the Arab initiative spearheaded by Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

"Where do we turn now?" asked an official at the Tunis headquarters of the Arab League, the 22-

member organisation that helped launch the peace initiative at a summit in Casablanca last May.

Muawad, a pro-Syrian Christian, had the support of almost the entire Arab world in his effort to reunite Christians and Muslims in Lebanon.

The president's election was also backed by the international community in an unprecedented show of unanimity. Minutes before the death, foreign diplomats had wished Muawad well at ceremonies marking Lebanon's Independence Day.

The United States was quick to condemn the assassination, terming it a "despicable act of terrorism against a man of peace."

Under the Arab plan, Muawad was to set up a national unity government drawn from all Lebanon's main factions and carry through constitutional reforms that would give the Muslim majority a greater share of power.

Hitherto the Christian minority has had the strongest hand in Lebanon's complicated power system based on sect.

Muawad's death will be a particular blow to Syria, which hailed the Arab plan as vindication of its view that it has a special role in Lebanon.

It relieves the diplomatic pressure on Aoun, who vowed to rid Lebanon of Syria's 33,000 troops and who found himself increasingly isolated in his refusal to recognise Muawad's election.

"This is terribly tragic but all the more reason for Arab mediation to continue," an Egyptian diplomat said.

widespread admiration and respect.

He said "the brutal murder ... was carried out by those seeking to destroy the prospect of a unified Lebanon." He said it was especially tragic that the slaying should have taken place on Lebanon's National Day "and at a time when there was hope that such acts of violence which have plagued the country for so long were things of the past."

The official Soviet spokesman, Gennady Gerasimov condemned the assassination.

Pilot error caused Korean crash: South Korea said pilot error caused July's crash of a Korean Air DC-10 in Tripoli which killed 74 of the 199 people on board and six others on the ground.

The government ordered a two-month suspension of the airline's weekly flights to the Libyan capital starting Jan 1. The airline said the surviving pilot and the flight engineer would be fired and charged with negligence and accidental homicide. (Reuters)

Sweden releases Palestinian: A Swedish court released one defendant and ordered three other Palestinians held in custody yesterday at the conclusion of a five-week trial.

The court said it would hand down a verdict on Dec 21 in the case, the first trial held in Sweden on charges related to Middle East terrorism. (AP)

Sudan hard hit by Aids: Sudanese Health Minister Mohammed Shaker Al Serag said that 125 Sudanese nationals have been infected by Aids and that 181 others are carriers of its virus.

Addressing a conference on Aids in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, Al Serag said that the two figures are based on an initial survey conducted in only three regions in the Sudan. (UPI)

Tunisian students boycott classes: University students in the south Tunisian city of Sfax are boycotting classes in protest at an outbreak of food poisoning at the campus cafeteria, university officials said today.

They said 37 students were hospitalised after having dinner in the cafeteria on Tuesday last week. The officials denied a Tunis newspaper report that 290 students needed hospital treatment. (Reuters)



Vassiliou

Cypriot President George Vassiliou and his wife enjoy a sound and light display of the 1978 October Day ceremony in the Sanayeh district of Syrian-ruled west Beirut when

the explosion rocked the city. Police said those killed apart from Muawad were six Syrian soldiers and eight Lebanese troops and officers assigned to guard the President, including his Aide de Camp Col Joseph Ramay, and nine civilians, three of them women.

"The President's death was instantaneous," said a police spokesman. Muawad's body was taken to the morgue of the American University of Beirut pending funeral arrangements.

He is survived by a wife, Naila, and two children, 23-year-old Rima, a law student in Paris, and 17-year-

PAAET aims to provide workforce

Skilled expats to continue

KUWAIT'S Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) was striving to create a national workforce to meet the requirements of the country's future development plans, as part of its next-five-year plan.

A local daily said the authority's five-year-plan would provide the necessary national workforce to bridge the gap in the national manpower and to meet the country's development needs.

The 1990-91 to 1994-95 five year plan will serve the main objectives of the country's development strategy as well as planning priorities in order to achieve the targeted human resources development.

Elucidating its objectives, the plan calls for the necessary attention to economic resources development planning as well as the diversification of the productive base.

The plan called for recruiting of all the needed technical and scientific staff.

Balance

The plan projected the importance of co-operation and coordination with the authorities concerned in Arab and Islamic countries as well as other friendly countries for the provision of the technical and scientific exploitation of means of production.

With regard to the population balance planning, which aimed at handling the deficiency in the population equation by minimizing dependence on expatriate workers, the plan said that priority when bringing in the foreign workforce must be given to skilled workers in order to benefit from the experience of this section of workers in the training of the national workforce.

The plan said that the authority will strive to oblige the private sector to employ a high percentage of nationals in its establishments, adding that this

sector must undertake to provide the necessary training opportunities for national manpower in different fields.

In the meantime, the authority would strive to modernise and diversify its programmes in order to keep abreast with the supply and demand requirements, the plan said.

It added that the authority would consider the relations between applied education, training and the labour market, saying that there were schemes for encouraging Kuwaiti youth to acquire technical and practical know-how and the provision of the necessary facilities to ensure the application of know-how in the local labour market.

Specialisations

To achieve this, the authority would guide Kuwaiti students to the required specialisations in different areas commensurate with trends and talents and in compliance with requirements of national development, the plan said.

It added that while the Kuwaiti woman represented half the community, the planners were keen to ensure the Kuwaiti woman's role in different fields and in accordance with Kuwait's traditions and values.

It added that in the framework of the authority's policy to enhance the role of Kuwaiti woman, the authority will do its part towards preparing Kuwaiti women to play her role in national development.

To achieve these goals, the quality of education must be improved and applied education and training must be connected with development needs.

Objectives

Apart from the above, the authority will strive to develop continued education.

The door will be open for citizens to join the continued education centres irrespective of age.

Speaking of the administrative

development process, the plan said that in order to achieve the national objective in this respect, attention should be paid to the training process, adding that the training should be based on scientific and sound methods. Likewise, the authority will encourage efficient employees to follow up their studies irrespective of their position.

The plan expressed readiness to contribute to developing of the private sector which it described as an organic partner in the development march and constituting part and parcel of community efforts towards achieving economic and social goals.

The authority could play an effective role to realise tangible development in the private sector by providing the sector with the necessary manpower and training opportunities.

Investment

Meanwhile, in the field of foreign investment, the plan called for giving the necessary priority to projects that will help provide the necessary strategic commodities for the country. It called for attaining the optimum benefit from oil revenues by establishing national technology.

To achieve these goals, the plan said that the authority is willing to develop a national technical base and to obtain available research and studies.

It added that the authority will participate in preparing feasibility studies of productive projects and contribute in the developing of research centres.

The plan will undertake informational campaigns to enlighten citizens about development needs, its schemes and programmes by changing the current conception in the country over the vocational jobs, adding that this campaign will be carried out through a comprehensive plan to be realised through co-operation with the authorities concerned in the country.

Observe and control children, says Rifai

Families also responsible in education

THE assistant undersecretary for public education at the Ministry of Education, Mrs Suad Al Rifai, called on parents to observe and control their children to protect them delinquency.

She added that schools alone cannot achieve much without the cooperation of families, because families have a stronger influence on the children than schools.

She said the ministry did not leave

attacks against teachers or headmasters by pupils unpunished, saying the ministry aimed at protecting the dignity of teachers. The ministry referred some of these cases to the prosecutor's office if the attacks were serious beside expelling the pupil.

System

She said a joint committee was set up from the ministry and Kuwait University to evaluate the course system in some

secondary schools.

The committee submitted a report about negative and positive aspects of the course system. The report supported the new system. The ministry now intends to apply this system in more schools gradually. She added that the ministry and university were making continuous follow-up to study the situation of students who finished the Secondary

School Certificate (course system).

Commenting on group teachers system, Al Rifai said that the group teacher system was not a new system in the schools. The teachers of this system were qualified and got refresher courses.

She said the ministry cannot stop shifting of teachers from schools to others because of serious circumstances and reasons.

Shamlan listens to students' problems

PARIS, Nov 22, (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan, met on Tuesday, in Paris, Kuwaiti students in France and discussed with them all the issues related to their academic activities and stay in this country.

Dr Shamlan, who arrived in Paris on Monday, on the first leg of a European tour, which will take him also to Britain and Ireland, had a two and a half hour meeting with Kuwaiti students, in a "most friendly atmosphere," the Kuwaiti Cultural Attaché in Paris, Abdullah Al Bajjan told Kuna.

The minister expressed satisfaction at the opportunity he had to discuss directly with the students and get a first hand briefing on the kind of problems they can meet with when they are abroad reading for their degrees, he said.

Encouragement

Dr Shamlan encouraged all the students, saying that Kuwait was taking great care of them and was looking forward to having them back home and working for their country after their graduation, he added.

The union of Kuwaiti students, in turn, thanked the minister for his words of encouragement and expressed hope for improved relations between students and the Higher Education Ministry, he indicated.



UK gift to children's ward

The British Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe Tuesday presented play equipment for the children's ward, a gift from his government, to the Amir Hospital. Pictured above is Hinchcliffe after the presentation ceremony also attended by Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, Patron of the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children.

KAC to facilitate export of agricultural products

THE managing director of Agricultural Food Products Company, Khaled Al Usman, said that company exported 22 tons of cucumber to Saudi Arabia and Qatar last week.

He added that this was the first shipment exported by the company this season.

Usman added that the company had a desire to export its agricultural products to any country in the world specially Europe, to which products were supplied last year. These products were accepted by Europeans.

He added that the main obstacle to export to Europe was the high cost of air freight. The transportation cost of each kilo came to 250 fils. He said the company has contacts with Kuwait Airways Corp. (KAC) to facilitate the air-freight of local agricultural products. Products were usually exported to Europe between Nov 1 and Jan 31.

There is no demand on the KAC's planes during this period which meant the ability to use KAC planes in transporting Kuwaiti products to Europe. Usman pointed out that some foreign airlines had submitted attractive offers to carry the agriculture

exports for very low prices. But the company preferred to transport them on the national carriers he said.

Usman pointed out that local co-operative societies market about 11,000 tons of local agricultural products daily and 27 co-operative societies opened special markets and places to sell the local products.

He hoped that other co-operatives would do the same. The company was ready to open new vegetable markets in the housing areas to reduce pressure on the vegetables market in Shuwaikh, but this depended on availability of required areas for these markets. The company needed markets in Sabahiya, Sulaibiya, Ardiya and Sabat Al Salem suburbs. He hoped that the municipality would respond to the company's call to allocate land to build these markets.

The company will open a new market in Sabahiya area within the next few days to increase number of its markets to five, namely in Shuwaikh, Hawalli, Murgab, Sulaibikhat and Sabahiya, he said.

75pc Kuwaitis in engineering dept.

THE director of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Kuwait University, Dr Farouq Badrkhan, said that the department paid great attention to scientific research and specialist professors at the department carried out research related to various fields of study.

He told a local daily there were 370 students at the department, and 75 per cent were Kuwaitis. Out of a total of 26 teachers, 12 were Kuwaitis. He added that five students were studying abroad on scholarships.

He said the department reconsidered its courses twice over the past ten years, and that it was planning to do this again next

year. He said that mechanical engineering topped the list of vital specialisations needed in the local professional market, and steps were being taken to expand the capacity of the department's new building in Shuwaikh.

He pointed out that post-graduate studies in mechanical engineering varied considerably, and that the department introduced a post-graduate study programme in 1985. Work was currently under way to develop new laboratories for material testing, flexible industrial systems, robot and automated industrialisation,

vibrations and noise control, word-processing, non-destructive testing of materials, measuring and calibration, desalination and others, and that these laboratories would be used in teaching and research.

He said that the only existing problem at the department was lack of capacity, and limitation of space allocated to its laboratories, and that this was a grave problem, since it hampered scientific progress.

He added that these problems would hopefully be solved by the buildings of the Engineering Faculty planned for construction in Shuwaikh soon.

Television dangerous to youth, says Falah

THE head of information department of the Islamic Interim national Charity Organisation, Dr. Adel Al Falah has warned of the dangers of modern means of communications on Arab and Muslim youth. He said in a lecture about the role of media in supporting Islamic values that the rapid development of video and television sets, satellite and television cameras depict unlimited freedom in the west and reaches every house and room in the Arab and Islamic world.

He added that children and youth will see immoral and violent films and serials which are rejected by Islamic values and instruction. He added that contemporary media has the ability to transmit different concepts and information by persuasive means.

Falah said that television is most dangerous device that appeared in 1958 for the first time. TV is now available everywhere. The experts of TV programmes have succeeded in dominating the minds of adults as well as children. They claim that their programmes are social, cultural and entertainment but in fact they establish social values and instructions, he said.

Control

Falah pointed out that education specialists around the World have warned of the dangers of television. In Tokyo, some teachers formed the "Television Resisting committee." The British government began assuming official control over television programmes. In Canada, too, many specialists have called for the removal from the screen of the famous TV serial, "The Saint."

He added that western people have begun to complain of the negative effects of TV programmes which are causing moral collapse in their society. But he added that television can be used for objective educational programmes depicting history, culture and religion.

He added that information can play an important role in supporting of Islamic values. He added that Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) used all informational means available in the time to call for Islam such as writing letters, speeches, receiving delegations and sending his messengers to different kings and tribes.

The Muslims should use all available means of information to achieve the aims of Muslims and Islam. The media should be used to enlighten the public about Islamic education and values and families should guide and control programmes watched by their children, Falah said.

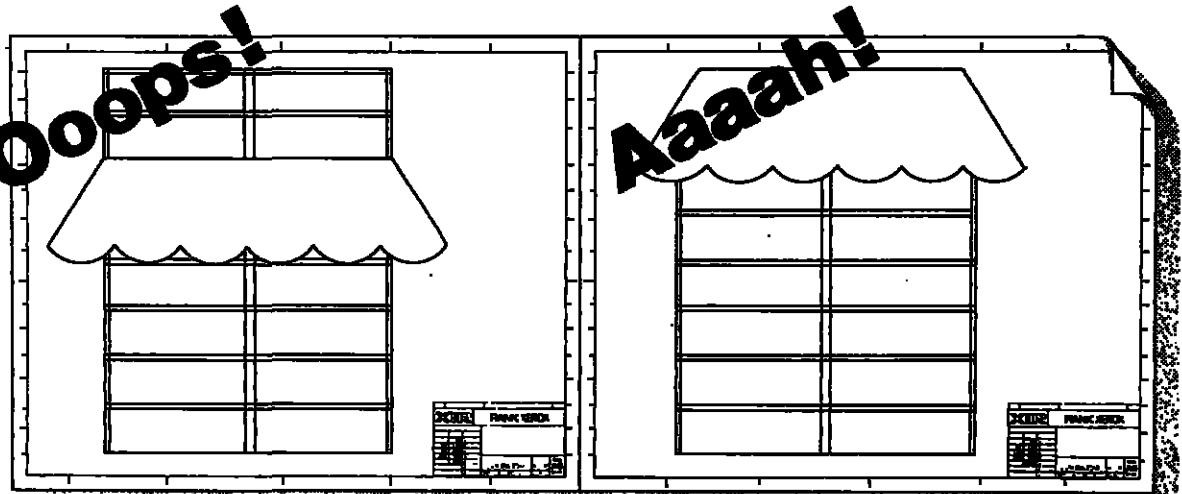
Social welfare

KUWAIT, Nov 22, (Kuna): The Social Affairs and Labour Ministry pumped KD 1.353 million in social welfare to Kuwaiti families last October, the ministry said in a statement today. More than 18,330 citizens benefited from the aid which went to widows, orphans, elderly, disabled, students and families of prisoners, the statement said.

Al termine della sua missione in Kuwait,
l'Ambasciatore d'Italia sarà lieto di salutare i connazionali all' "Holiday Inn Hotel" domenica 26 giugno 1989 dalle 18 alle 20.

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السماح في العمل

Japanese to help end 'red water' problem

Over KD 10m contract signed

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT yesterday signed the last of the four contracts for the construction of water treatment plants that will feed distilled water to the entire network putting an end to the country's long-standing 'red water' problem.

The 30-month KD 10.225,000 contract was awarded to the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan, the lowest of the five bidders.

The plant to be built by the Japanese will treat 40 million imperial gallons of desalinated water a day from the Al Zour South Water Production Station.

The first such plant in Kuwait was built by Japanese Sumitomo in Shurwaikh, while two other plants are under construction in Doha.

Speaking to reporters after the signing ceremony the Minister of Water and Electricity Homoud Al Rqobah said the plants, once they came onstream, would supply a total of 148 million imperial gallons of treated water, more than Kuwait's current consumption.

Kuwait's residents would get their drinking water from the taps without the use of home filters, he added.

The plan to rid the system of impurities from corrosion which coloured the water red includes the replacement of the asbestos water pipes by the ductile ones.

But it is the water treatment plants that will make a major difference by adjusting the levels of alkalinity in water to preclude corrosion. The Al Zour plant will maintain alkalinity of distillate between 60 to 80 particles per million as calcium carbonate. The treated water will coat the pipes preventing corrosion.

Any future plans for desalination plants in Kuwait will incorporate water distillation facilities, the minister said.

In view of the plans to bring piped water from the Shatt Al Arab waterway in Iraq, Kuwait plans to set up a Higher Council for Water that will draw up water production and utilisation policies, Rqobah said without elaborating.

He also said the government is considering plans to move the Shurwaikh power station, but gave no details.

Kuwaitisation being implemented by CSC

10,971 qualified nationals recently appointed

THE assistant undersecretary for budget and internal administration at the Civil Service Commission, Mohammed Al Rishoud, said the policy of Kuwaitisation is now being implemented by all ministries and government establishments. Non-Kuwaitis were employed only in necessary cases, and appointed in jobs for which there were no qualified Kuwaitis. It also applied through the replacing of Kuwaitis instead of non-Kuwaiti employees in many jobs.

Rishoud pointed out that the decision taken by Council of Ministers prohibiting non-Kuwaiti public servants from shifting from one ministry to another or to a government establishment only one year after resignation applied to all non-Kuwaiti public servants whether they were on the Civil Service payscale or appointed on private contracts. He added that the purpose of this decision was to put an end to competition among government establishments and ministries for specialised man-

power. The decision did not allow competition to affect the work at these ministries or establishments.

But he added that the law made an exception and exempted non-Kuwaiti employees from the one year separation period before joining another government job if the first employer gave approval for the shifting of these employees to their new jobs.

The two establishments could also

exchange or borrow staff for a determined period. In this case there was no competition, Rishoud added. The decision applied to every employee whatever the reason of retirement or dismissal was, he said.

He pointed out that 10,971 qualified Kuwaitis were appointed in the public sector from July 1988 to Sept 15, 1989.

He added that percentage of Kuwaiti manpower in the public sector increased from 33.6 per cent in 1981 to 44.5 per cent in 1989.

Uniforms at private schools expensive

PARENTS feel that school uniforms are very expensive, but school officials say that the prices are approved by the Ministry of Education.

A local daily interviewed some tailors and cloth shops to ascertain the actual cost of the uniforms used at private schools.

The daily selected three private schools to compare the prices of its uniforms with those available in the local market.

One school was selling each trouser to the secondary school students for KD 6, and the dress of primary stage at KD 5.

Another school situated at Surra area was selling the dress with the blouse for girl students of secondary schools at KD 7.500 for both, while the primary and intermediate stage dresses were selling at KD 5 each, while the trouser was selling at KD 3.500 and the shirt at KD 2.500.

Another school was selling the dress of primary stage at KD 7 and for the intermediate stage at KD 9, while the trouser of primary stage students was selling at KD 5.

Competition

Meanwhile, the daily noted that the same quality is being sold at the local market, but the parents of the private school students were not allowed to purchase them, although the students of the government schools were being allowed to purchase their uniform from the market and not from their schools.

The daily noted that the policy followed by the government schools had created competition among the merchants selling the clothing and eventually the parents had benefited from this, and accordingly the cost of the government schools uniform was less than that of the private ones.

The daily interviewed one shop owner dealing in school uniforms. He said that the cost of dress for the secondary school student was estimated at KD 5 on wholesale basis, while the schools were selling the same at KD 10.

He said that the tailoring shops were striving to attract school owners and were selling their schools uniforms at the best prices.

Another tailor providing uniforms said that he was selling both the trousers and the shirt at KD 4.

Protect Palestinian human rights, Arabs tell UN

Arafat briefs Kuwait on Baker plan

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 22, (Agencies): Kuwait and other Arab states strongly condemned Israel's practices and policies in the occupied territory and urged that the United Nations take action to halt the violations of the Palestinians' human rights.

Speaking in the special political committee which is considering the report of the special committee to investigate Israeli practices, the Arabs again called for an international conference on the Middle East as the ultimate solution to the overall situation.

Kuwait's representative Mohammad S. Al Sallal said although there is irrefutable proof that Israel violates human rights in the territory, Western communities sometimes only "rap their knuckles lightly" for those crimes which would not be allowed in their own countries.

Israeli courts, he said, deal with the crimes committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinians "ridiculously lightly" and these practices must be condemned as racist and inhuman, Sallal said.

Condemnation

Kuwait condemns all violations of the rights of the Islamic people, Sallal said, and he appealed to the international community to put an end to assaults on freedom of worship.

He also condemned the closing of schools, and called on all member states to take clearer positions to bring about an end to the situation in the occupied territory.

Qatar's representative Abdulrahman Al Khulaifi expressed disappointment that the special committee's mandate has been going on for 21 years without effecting any change in the situation in the occupied territory.

Since the committee year after year details the violations in the territory and no international action is taken, other measures should be taken to raise the world's conscience.

He went on to say that Israel is defying the will of the international community as a whole as well as all religious tenets, including the commandments of Judaism itself.

"The policy of taxation, collective punishment, annexation, curfews, brutal methods to deal with strikes, and the estab-



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat with HH the Amir yesterday.

shment of settlements are, among other things, all acts which constitute clear proof that the occupying power is acting against the divine will," Khulaifi said.

He urged the United Nations to take action to alleviate the situation.

Sabri Boukadoum of Algeria noted that the crux of the problem in the occupied territory lies in the occupation itself. As long as it continues the occupier will not agree to respect the rights of the people.

He urged the international community to denounce Israeli expansionism and take urgent measures to guarantee the protection of Palestinian rights and a global and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arab League observer Clovis Maksoud said the comprehensiveness of the report reflects the increased frequency and diversity of Israel's repressive

measures. It is clear from the nature of these practices that Israel intends to establish new facts by a systematic scheme of new settlements and an increase of existing ones.

The entire problem, Maksoud said, stems from the fact that Israel does not consider itself the occupying power, therefore the Palestinians are expected to be submissive.

"The Palestinian uprising is attempting to re-establish the rule of law and to make UN resolutions credible and effective," Maksoud said.

Meanwhile the President of Palestine, Yasser Arafat briefed Kuwaiti leaders today on the PLO's stance toward a US plan which envisages talks between Israel and Palestinians, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said Arafat arrived in Kuwait today on a two-day visit, and met with Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Jaber Al

Ahmad Al Sabah, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

They said Arafat briefed the Kuwaiti leaders on "the PLO's stance regarding the current efforts to push the (Middle East) peace process forward, particularly the five-point plan of US Secretary of State James Baker which envisages talks between Israel and Palestinians."

The PLO's view of the Baker proposals was conveyed to Egypt — which has also made its own proposals on the Middle East — yesterday by Jamal Sourani, a member of the PLO's executive committee.

Sourani met with Egypt's foreign minister in Cairo late yesterday, but no official details have yet emerged on the contents of the Palestinian reply.

Arab diplomatic sources said the Palestinian leadership stressed that it should have the right to choose the Palestinians who will negotiate with Israel.

It also demanded that the agenda of the peace talks should not be restricted to the subject of elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as Israel wants, the Arab diplomats said.

Whisky in UAE sand

ABU DHABI, Nov 22, (Reuters): The same day two Gulf newspapers were banned for 24 hours for advertising a Beaujolais Nouveau wine festival, the United Arab Emirates consigned 9,000 bottles of whisky to the desert sands.

Officials in the Muslim UAE said today the confiscated whisky and 1,500 cans of beer were crushed by bulldozers in the city of Al Ain.

Newspaper official in Dubai said the English language Gulf News and the Khaleej Times were not issued on Tuesday because of an advertisement for a Beaujolais festival at a local hotel.

In previous years some Gulf newspapers and radio stations have got around a ban on advertising wine by describing the new Beaujolais as "a red French beverage."

Environ expert calls for effective laws

A TOP environmental expert in Bahrain has called for the introduction and implementation of environmental legislation in the country and for strict enforcement of the few existing environmental laws in view of serious threats to both land and marine environment in the island.

Speaking at a recent United Nations sponsored environmental seminar, Walter J. Vreeland, adviser to Bahrain's Environmental Protection Committee (EPC), said that Bahrain must soon introduce and execute legislation that would give effective authority to any government agency to control the sources of pollution and thereby protect the country's environment.

Growing problems range from a severe litter and rubbish problem to: hazardous reclaiming of coastal land and the uncontrolled dumping of hazardous chemicals and other uncontrolled pollution sources. It is virtually impossible to remedy any environmental problems without specific pollution control laws that are vigorously enforced," said Vreeland, while presenting a paper entitled "Environmental Management of Bahrain."

Vreeland emphasised that the aim of environmental management is to ensure that development and conservation of natural resources are pursued as goals of equal importance. He added that since EPC was formed in the country in 1980, Bahrain has made a positive achievement in solving some of its various environment problems. However he stressed that in order to ensure comprehensive efforts are made by all government bodies to combat environment problems, there must be legislation which can hasten the task of control. In this context Vreeland said that all government directorates that form the EPC must show greater co-ordination in matters relating to the environment.

Meanwhile, earlier this week, Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, called for both regional and international efforts to combat toxic waste dumping in the Gulf. He called for strict legislation against this kind of marine pollution.

Deportations

LAGOS, Nov 22, (AP): Saudi Arabia deported 400 Nigerians, putting them on a flight to Kano in northern Nigeria, a newspaper reported.

The Nigerians were sent home last week on a special flight of the Saudi national airline, according to the independent Punch newspaper.

UAE prize

ABU DHABI, Nov 22, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates is giving prizes to anybody born in the country on its National Day December 2.

Officials said today that 970 hopefuls had so far registered at the Information and Culture Ministry.

But nobody knows yet what the birthday surprise will be.

Five years RI, deportation for booze smuggler

THE Higher Appeal Court upheld a sentence of five years rigorous imprisonment followed by deportation passed by the Criminal Court against a truck driver.

He had attempted to smuggle 84 bottles of whiskey into Kuwait and attempted to bribe the customs inspectors at Abdali border centre to release him.

The customs inspector told the court he found the bottles of whiskey hidden inside the spare tyre of the truck. He said the driver tried to bribe him by giving him a watch. The inspector did not accept the bribe and took him to the customs officer. The defendant admitted the charge.

A man was sentenced in absentia to three years rigorous imprisonment followed by deportation by the Court of Misdemeanours.

The court was told the defendant had published advertisements for his maid recruiting service. Clients had given him large sums of money, and he kept stalling them until they discovered one day that he had absconded with their money.

The court found his partner innocent.

A man charged with smuggling liquor into the country was sentenced to 40 months imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of KD300

by the Criminal Court.

The court was told the smuggling attempt was reported to the authorities by a customs inspector. He said he had searched the vehicle on arrival from Iraq, and found 34 bottles of liquor hidden in the engine.

The Court of Misdemeanours released a schoolgirl sentenced for beating a fellow student when the victim told the court she pardoned the defendant.

The court's decision was based on a law that said the court had the right to accept a pardon from a plaintiff even after issuing the final sentence when the sentence did not exceed five years imprisonment.

Two Lebanese, two Indians and a Bangladeshi have been arrested and charged with stealing 100 cartons of ready-made clothes. The goods were stolen from a store located in Shurwaikh Industrial area.

One of the men made a duplicate of the store key, and the other men assisted him in the theft and in selling the stolen goods in the market. The men and the goods have been referred to the authorities.

Foreign debt discussed at Unido meet

VIENNA, Nov 22, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti delegation to meetings of the United Nations Industrial Organisation (Unido) today underlined the importance of the problem of foreign debts considering it a major obstacle to industrial development in the Third World.

Speaking on behalf of Kuwait, Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria, Abdulhamid Al Awadhi brought to the attention of the General Assembly the proposal of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad on the heavy burden of debts on developing nations.

The Amir, in his speech at the United Nations last year, suggested holding a meeting for debtor nations to consider writing off part of their loans to developing

countries. Awadhi said Kuwait is ready to attend such a meeting and abide by its decisions but noted that it should relieve indebted nations of most or some of the debts to enable them to look forward to new projects and more developments.

The ambassador said the proposal would benefit both indebted and debtor nations as it would reactivate commercial and social contacts.

Appraising the Amir's proposal, Awadhi said Kuwait was the first creditor nation in the world to look at the foreign debts problem as "an essential question which must be handled with a courageous decision from developing nations."

He demanded that Unido

undertake an active role toward assisting the Palestinian people to ease the tragedies they face at the hands of the Israelis.

He noted that the Israeli occupation still practises all means of brutalities and terrorism in addition to economic harassment against Palestinians living in the occupied lands.

On another issue, the ambassador called for more co-operation and co-ordination between Unido and the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID), indicating that AOID looks forward to establish a stronger relationship with Unido.

Unido's meetings started last Monday with the attendance of 150 delegations representing their countries.

CLOUDY weather will continue with moderate north-westerly wind. State of sea: Moderate to rough. High water: 8.00 am, 9.00 pm. Low water: 1.00 am, 2.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.18 am. Sunset: 4.50 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 16°C 61°F. Amman: 17°C 63°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F. Amman: 15°C 59°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 17°C 63°F. Amman: 17°C 63°F. Minimum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 16°C 61°F. Amman: 16°C 61°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 51 per cent. Amman: 60 per cent. Fair: 60 per cent.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IT is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it — Anonymous.

Nemeth presides over quiet change



Miklos Nemeth

When Nemeth took over from Karoly Grosz as prime minister on Nov 24, 1988, Hungary had been ruled by the Communist Party alone — apart from a few brief days at the height of the abortive 1956 uprising — for more than four decades.

Hungary's constitution, written on Stalinist lines in 1949, defined the country as a people's republic and accorded a leading role to the Communist Party. Other parties were banned.

Police broke up demonstrations, censorship prevented discussion of an array of topics and parliament was little more than a rubber stamp of Communist Party policies.

Today, demonstrations are commonplace, staged with police acquiescence or co-operation. Censorship has been all but abolished and parliament regularly votes down the government.

Since a law of association was passed in January, a few dozen non-Communist political parties have emerged or re-emerged into a liberal political climate.

The strongest, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, has thrashed the Communist Party in elections for four vacant seats since July. These were Hungary's first free parliamentary polls since 1947.

Now all the new and resurrected parties are preparing to fight multi-party parliamentary elections next year which will be Hungary's first such nation-wide polls for 43 years.

Their opponent fighting to stay in power will not be a Communist Party but a Western-style Socialist Party which emerged from a congress that abandoned the Communist Party and its ideology on Oct 7.

Hungary has become the first Warsaw Pact state to join a United Nations convention on refugees and the first to seek membership of the Council of Europe, which groups 23 Western nations.

It is making overtures to the European Free Trade Association, EFTA, and Trade Minister Tamas Beck has even said Hungary would like to join the European Economic Community.

Although neutrality is not an official policy goal, speaker of parliament Matyas Szuros told Reuters in October it was a national desire he believed could be achieved before the dissolution of the Nato and Warsaw Pact military alliances.

"The speed of change has been incredible," one Western ambassador told Reuters. "I have to be careful that what I write on Tuesday is not going to be out of date on Thursday."

The democratic changes are taking place in a totally different way from those forced by Solidarity in Poland this decade, in East Germany over the past few weeks and now being demanded in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

Most politicians speak of the "peaceful transition."

Justice Minister Kalman Kulcsar, responsible for steering a welter of democratic legislation through parliament, is happy to call it a "quiet revolution," Western diplomats agree.

So what was Nemeth's role in this revolution?

Now 41, the former economics lecturer was seen as a protégé of former party leader Grosz, whose enthusiasm for reforms soon ran out and who has not joined the new Socialist Party.

The political transformations are largely the work of reformist Imre Pozsgay, socialist candidate for head of state — president of the republic.

"When Nemeth was hired, everybody said he was young and bright but that he was Grosz's stooge," another diplomat said.

But he took the ball and started running. It took him a while to seize the reins, but since last May it has really been his government and he has grown in stature. He was a very good partner to Pozsgay in forcing the changes.

A touchstone of those changes has been a reassessment of the 1956 rebellion, hailed as a revolution at the time but branded a "counter-revolution" after it was quelled by Soviet troops who installed Janos Kadar as Hungarian leader.

In February, after a fierce debate provoked by Pozsgay nine months after Kadar was ousted by Grosz, the Communist Party rewrote history by declaring the rebellion a "people's uprising."

Imre Nagy, hanged for treason after forming a multi-party government and announcing Hungarian withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact at the height of the uprising, was exhumed from an unmarked grave and reburied with honours in June.

Nemeth, who has overtaken Pozsgay as the country's most popular politician, paid tribute to Nagy as an inspiration to his government's policies.

On Oct 23, after parliament had purged the 1949 constitution of all Stalinist elements, Szuros proclaimed Hungary a "republic," not a people's republic.

BUDAPEST, (Reuters): In the year since Miklos Nemeth became prime minister, a quiet revolution has taken Hungary from one-party communist rule to the brink of Western-style democracy.

The change has taken place without the mass demonstrations now sweeping other parts of Eastern Europe.

"The place is unrecognisable," said one Western diplomat. "I came to an East bloc communist country and now I'm living in a non-communist country which wants to leave the Warsaw Pact."



This is the scene at the funeral mass for six Jesuit priests on Nov 19 in San Salvador. (Reuters wirephoto)

Salvadoran guerrillas display military capacity

Offensive achieves several objectives

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, (AP): A huge offensive has left no doubt about the Salvadoran guerrillas' military capacity, and driven home their point that the 10-year-old civil war can't end without serious negotiations and government concessions.

And the killings of six Jesuit priests during the offensive galvanised opposition in the United States to continued aid for the rightist Salvadoran administration.

But the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front paid a high price for its achievements. Their offensive into densely populated urban districts provoked much ill will among the residents who lived through a weeklong nightmare of death and destruction.

Residents of Soyapango, Zacamil, Mejicanos and Ciudad Delgado, the humble neighbourhoods devastated by the fighting that began on Nov 11, were angry at a government that sent warplanes to strafe and bomb guerrilla positions amid their homes.

But those same residents seem to have saved the lion's share of their resentment for the rebels.

"We just want 'the boys' to leave, so we can go back to work and finish raising our children," said Porfirio Alvarez as he fled with his wife and two daughters from Zacamil.

The guerrillas maintained fortified positions in and around a complex of low-income apartment blocks there for four days.

Virtually the entire non-combatant population fled under fire.

When it appeared that most of the civilians had left, government forces subjected Zacamil to a six-hour barrage that left the complex smoldering and practically ruined.

"I know women whose sons are with the

guerrillas, and I see how they worry about their children and suffer when they are killed. They're human too. But because of them, we almost get killed. If they would not have come, this would not have happened," said Marta Rodriguez, sweeping her arm across her humble cinderblock soyapango home cratered by bullets and shrapnel.

It is difficult to imagine that the rebels made many converts in neighbourhoods where the fighting was heaviest, but guerrilla chief Facundo Guardado, interviewed at his command post near Mejicanos, said the display of strength, organisation and morale was motivating adolescent men and women to "incorporate themselves" into the struggle.

"I hold the FMLN in high regard professionally," retired US Army Gen. Fred Woerner told the Associated Press last week.

The war "cannot be resolved militarily," said Woerner, who drew up a strategic plan for the war in 1981 and was head of the US Southern Command in Panama until the end of September.

Woerner said the guerrillas cannot be overcome until the roots of war — unfair distribution of wealth and pervasive social injustice — are addressed.

In what appears to have been a response to the insurgent push, a squad of assassins murdered and mutilated six Jesuit priests and educators considered leftist ideologues by the country's rabid right.

Two witnesses, who for the moment remain in hiding, reportedly saw men in army uniform commit the massacre.

"The time has arrived for President (Alfredo) Cristiani to make good on his promise to control those officials in his government and in his party who in a good measure are responsible for the civil war," said US Senator Christopher Dodd after the

slayings.

"In a time of reduced foreign aid, we must ask ourselves what it is we are achieving with the dollars we send," said Sen. John Kerry.

But US President George Bush said the United States should not "undermine a fragile democracy" by withdrawing aid, and on Monday the lower house of Congress voted against restricting military aid. But the debate was bitter and at times personal, and the issue had clearly become controversial again.

The United States has provided more than \$3.5 billion in economic and military aid to a succession of Salvadoran governments this decade. It is generally conceded, even by US officials, that the rebels would have won the war by 1985 had it not been for US assistance.

The guerrillas said this year they are willing to abandon armed struggle and convert the FMLN into a political party in exchange for sweeping political, economic and social reform.

Rebel and government representatives sat down together in September and October to try to find a way toward peace.

The government rejected the possibility of fundamental overhaul of the reigning system and limited its negotiating position to a demand that the rebels lay down their arms and join "the democratic process."

When a bomb killed 10 unionists at a leftist labour federation, the rebels broke off talks.

Pope John Paul II late last week issued a call for truce and an exhortation to both sides to resume peace talks.

Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, said both sides have agreed in principle to heed the Pope's call and to accept the church as mediator.

Religious fundamentalism

A thorn in secular Turkey's side

ANKARA, (Reuters): "If I support their right to wear Islamic scarves, will they tolerate my miniskirt?" asked 22-year-old university student Senem Senturk.

A university ban on Islamic-style headscarves being worn by women students on campuses has become a new symbol of the divide between secularism and religious fundamentalism in Turkey.

The struggle has deep roots.

Secularism has been a pillar of the modern Turkish republic since 1923 when its founder Kemal Ataturk swept away the religion-based ruins of the Ottoman empire.

But 66 years later a hard-core minority of Muslim fundamentalists are carrying their religious zeal into the streets.

Bearded fundamentalists, enraged by violation of the orthodox Islamic ban on the representation of

living beings in art, destroyed 150 photographs of women at an Istanbul art gallery earlier this month.

Demonstrations by women in headscarves demanding that the university ban on them be revoked swept Ankara after the October 31 election of Turgut Ozal as president.

Ozal, Turkey's first president in three decades not drawn from the secularist military elite, has backed students' rights to wear headscarves.

During his six years as Prime Minister Ozal made the pilgrimage to Makkah three times and said last year: "The most coherent factor in our national unity is Islam."

Ozal's example of attending Friday prayers in mosque has been copied by politicians and ministers including foreign minister Mesut Yilmaz, a leading liberal.

The advent of an Iranian-style Islamic republic is

discounted by diplomats and ruled out by 69 per cent of the Turks, according to a 1988 opinion poll.

But some leading Turkish secularists fear that an Islamic system may be creeping in through the back door.

"Nearly 20,000 people graduate every year from religious schools, far exceeding the need for preachers. The rest go on to become prosecutors, judges, teachers, policemen and officials," said columnist and religious researcher Ugur Mumcu.

Enrolment figures in Ankara's prestigious faculty of political sciences, which has supplied governors, financiers and diplomats for 130 years, show a 30 per cent increase in students from religious high schools.

"In the next century, bureaucrats with religious education will be the majority in the Turkish state," Mumcu said.

Political diversity flourishes in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan, (AP): The first nationwide election with a legal opposition has produced Taiwan's spiciest campaign ever, featuring a crop of candidates who are ignoring long-time political taboos in their search for votes.

One candidate, dancer Hsu Hsiao-Dan, has ignored other taboos as well, distributing posters of herself in a topless pose as she campaigns on the Labour Party ticket for worker welfare, love and political freedom.

Legislative, mayoral and other local elections will be contested Dec 2 by 724 candidates in the first balloting since the 1987 scrapping of martial law, which outlawed opposition political groups.

Fifteen political parties are fielding candidates against the Nationalist Party, which has governed this island of 20 million people since losing a civil war to communist forces on the Chinese mainland 40 years ago.

The new political climate has brought forth several first-time candidates who are attracting attention with daring political ideas or provocative campaign tactics.

Among those receiving the most serious notice is Yeh Chu-Lan, whose husband burned himself to death in April to avoid police interrogation over his advocacy of an "independent Taiwan."

In the local political lexicon, independence means rejection of the nationalist claim to be the legitimate government of mainland China as well as Taiwan.

Miss Yeh, 40, is among 32 of the 163 candidates from the opposition Democratic Progressive Party openly campaigning for an independent Taiwan despite nationalist threats that they could face arrest on sedition charges.

Her alliance is advocating "a new country, a new culture," a slogan that no doubt is anathema to nationalist elders.

"Taiwan has in fact been independent for the past four decades," said Miss Yeh. "We need to build a brand-new country from this reality than making slow reforms within an authoritarian system."

If reunification occurs, she argues, Taiwan will surrender its economic prosperity under a communist system directed by Beijing.

But many Taiwanese are skeptical about her movement, largely because Beijing has refused to rule out the use of force to bring about reunification if Taiwan declares independence.

Local newspapers, which long refused to publish anything but the official nationalist line, have provided extensive coverage of the alliance and called for the protection of the candidates' freedom of speech.

Another candidate testing the new political climate is Wang Chin-Ping of the newly formed Workers' Party, who is seeking a seat in the lawmaking legislative Yuan as a socialist.

Only a few years ago, anyone advocating anything close to socialism would be considered a

communist, the ultimate evil in the eyes of the Nationalists.

But Wang has run an unfettered campaign as he calls for "peaceful reforms" to provide more social welfare benefits and to prevent big business from using government connections to evade tax.

Wang, 44, usually begins his campaign day at dawn by joining city workers sweeping Taipei's streets and gathering garbage. He remains on the streets throughout the day soliciting votes from factory workers, taxi drivers and shop clerks.

"This country needs someone to speak for the oppressed," says Wang. He says his campaign staff includes students and workers who have been penalized or dismissed from jobs for organizing unions.

Wang, who owns a small book store, was dismissed from the prestigious Tamkang University eight years ago for criticizing the Nationalists' authoritarian rule.

Perhaps the most controversial candidate is the dancer, Hsu Hsiao-Dan, 30. She appears topless in a campaign poster that also shows her holding a bouquet of roses in one hand as she sets fire to pieces of paper bearing the names of famous political prisoners she says are victims of a Nationalist-controlled judicial system.

Miss Hsu, wearing a floral band around her long hair, distributes the poster, sings and lights up cigarettes for constituents as she campaigns in Kaohsiung, 345 kms (216 miles) south of Taipei.

Letters to the editor

Destroying harmony

SIR: The minorities in India just can't disregard the appeal of the Delhi Imam Syed Bukhari to vote against Congress. Unlike his previous appeals — its waves echoed only in the northern parts of India — it has prime importance this time as people are in doubt whether the minorities in India are secure under the Congress rule.

The Indian Union Muslim League — its strength confined to the south Indian state of Kerala only — claims the guardianship of Muslim minority either failed to protect the rights through its local coalition Congress Party, of the society which it has represented, or else they just can't estrange the local Congress leaders to benefit a few ministers in Kerala after the coalition assembly elections. Not only the political observers in Kerala, but any ordinary person can predict the position of two Muslim League candidates. Without any support of Congress or any other parties they can easily win the two seats to Lok Sabha. Then it is easy to find why the Muslim League can't leave the Congress who has now turned as another BJP.

What a shame that Indians had to know the correct news from British Broadcasting Corporation, on the foundation of a new temple in the disputed place just 192 feet far from the 400 years old Babri Masjid.!!

It is shameful for our judiciary, that when there is an interim court judgement banning construction of a temple in the disputed place, the government of Uttar Pradesh and the central government gave a green signal to "Vishwa Hindu Parishad" to go ahead with the construction of the temple.

The withdrawal of a BJP candidate from Ayodhya Lok Sabha constituency to declare its support to the Congress candidate conspicuously reveals the dirty role of both the Congress and BJP. People were fooled by supplying false news that the foundation laid down was not in the disputed place.

The only political parties who strongly opposed the plan of constructing a temple in the disputed area were both the communist parties (CPM and CPI), saying that this will destroy the existing communal harmony in the country and this should be stopped at any cost.

When the "Shilapooja" (Stone worship) sowed the seeds of the communal violence in many parts of India, Kerala and Bengal remained cool.

The government allowed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to act against the court orders at the same time, the police force arrested and removed the communists who opposed and conducted a peaceful rally in Ayodhya.

It is baseless that a group of people claim that the Moghul King Zaheeruddin Babar had demolished a temple and constructed a mosque in Ayodhya. Many historians from Hindu community itself proved the claim is wrong. It is a known fact that the British rulers followed a policy of "divide and rule," the same way the history has been distorted to create a dispute between the two communities. Historians with national interest, patriotism and secular view tried to throw some light on the matter.

What happened in Bhagalpur with the help of police officers in a state where Congress is ruling will shock anyone. BJP and its armed wing RSS may justify the killings of innocent people in Bhagalpur, all in the name of the disputed temple construction.

There are more than five hundred worshiping places in Faisalabad at present and let the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and RSS build another hundreds of temples, nobody is going to interfere, but why only in a disputed place, where a mosque is already there which belongs to an another community....?

Many neutral and broadminded people say that any worshiping place such as mosque, temple, church, gurudwara, synagogue are to be protected and accepted as they were when India became independent.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad and RSS are not agreeable to this. The special bench of the high court ordered to maintain the disputed place as it was on the August 14 and no alterations were allowed to be made. The VHP and RSS did not respect the court orders and showed their muscle power with the help of Uttar Pradesh and central government.

The BJP talk more about 'nationalism' and unity of the country and it's armed wing may justify the killings of innocent people. But can attacks on temples and innocent Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh or killings of innocent people in Punjab be justified. Can they justify the policy of separatism in Kashmir?

If this fanatic tendency is not uprooted, we will have to pay a high price for it.

Maruthur Moidutty, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the edition process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"I've never made a list of my top or bottom teams. Growing up I never had one team I wanted to play for. I just decided I wanted to play in the NBA. I still want to make that dream come true. But I don't know if it will be next year or after that." — Danny Ferry, of the Seattle SuperSonics, an American being evasive when asked whether he prefers Cavaliers or Clippers of the NBA.

"IBSPF comes to power we will be heard. It will be good for Harjians because it is fighting for justice." — A Harjian on the eve of the Indian elections starting on Wednesday.

"For me to win the tournament is amazing. It's the best tournament I could have won. This one I didn't expect it at all. The others I did." — West German Steffi Graf after beating Navratilova in the final of the Virginia Slims championship.

"It's what you usually have to do against Martina. You have to take the chance and come to the net earlier than she does to take the advantage from her." — Graf on attacking the net usually to beat Martina Navratilova.

"There is no justice in our country. If you are honest you get the boot but if you are dishonest you are okay." — A Harjian on the elections in India.

"We need a long-term programme concerning economic reforms. These reforms shouldn't be carried out everywhere. The economy is a very vivid organism that reacts to every movement. That's why we have to think very thoroughly about what we can and can't do." — East German leader Egon Krenz during an interview.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1499 — Perkin Warbeck, pretender to English throne, is executed.

1531 — Peace of Kappel ends second civil war in Switzerland.

1844 — Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein are declared independent from Denmark.

1890 — Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is separated from the Netherlands.

1891 — Deodoro da Fonseca, first president of Brazil, is ousted by Navy revolt.

1943 — US forces defeat Japanese in Pacific battle of Tarawa in World War II.

1967 — Anti-American demonstrations are held in Ankara, Turkey, as US envoy arrives to try to cool dispute between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus.

1971 — China takes seat as permanent member of United Nations Security Council.

1972 — Bolivia declares state of siege, and rightwing government says there was a conspiracy to overthrow it.

1977 — Israel parades tanks on its side of Lebanese border as warning to Syrian troops and Palestine commandos to stay away from frontier.

1986 — Philippines President Corason Aquino dismisses defence chief Juan Ponce Enrile after reported coup attempt.

1987 — Iranian Navy warships shell two freighters sailing to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Strait of Hormuz during Gulf war.

1988 — Mobis rampage in Soviet republic of Azerbaijan in ethnic violence that kills three Soviet soldiers and injures more than 100 people.

45 slain in Indian election violence

Blasts rock Kashmir valley

(Continued from Page 1)

Bharatiya Janata Party and two communist parties under which only one opposition candidate is facing a ruling party contestant in more than 400 races, vastly reducing splits in the anti-government vote.

Rajiv was expected to win in

the Amethi constituency, where he was opposed by the Janata Dal's Raj Mohan Gandhi, grandson of India's independence leader Mohandas Gandhi.

Raj Mohan Gandhi, who is no relation to the prime minister, was roughed up by police when he complained of ballot-stuffing in Jagdishpur, one of main towns

in the Amethi district, party headquarters in New Delhi reported.

"The whole election in Amethi has become a farce," charged Dimesh Goswami, spokesman for the National Front opposition coalition comprising the Janata Dal and four other parties.

Rajmohan said police stuffed fake ballots in seven boxes in the Jagdishpur sector of Amethi and that he was roughed up by officers when he tried to make a formal complaint.

He demanded repolling in the entire district, telling United Press International: "This has not been an election. It is a reign of terror. Polling stations have become police stations. Rajiv Gandhi is heading the biggest terrorist group in India."

Violence

Janata Dal spokesman Yashwant Sinha told reporters in New Delhi that the party petitioned the Election Commission to countermand the Amethi race and order fresh polling.

The Congress (I) Party, meanwhile, charged Janata Dal workers instigated violence in more than 15 locations in Amethi, throwing bombs, torching several jeeps and firing guns to scare off voters to permit rigging in the district 310 miles (500 km) from New Delhi.

It also demanded the countermanding of elections in the Hissar and Rhotak constituencies of opposition-ruled northern Haryana state, where it accused the Janata Dal of instigating violence and engaging in rigging.

The Election Commission announced it was investigating reports of rigging in 50 booths in eastern Andhra Pradesh state, where it claimed unidentified activists "prevented voters from exercising their franchise and forcibly stamped some papers, besides snatching some away."

Rajiv travelled through Bihar in final campaigning for Friday's polling in the northern state.

The Congress Party, meanwhile, accused Janata Dal activists of killing three Congress supporters in Haryana state just north of the capital.

"This is a desperate and final assault on Indian democracy by the fascist opposition," Congress Party spokesman Anand Sharma told a news conference in New Delhi.

Despite the latest opinion polls, the prime minister professed confidence as he voted in New Delhi.

"We're going to win," he told reporters after he and his wife, Sonia, and their 18-year-old son, Rahul, voted across the street from their house.

The opposition was buoyed by the jubilant celebrations according to Singh in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states this week.

Advani

In Delhi, where the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has strong base, 58 per cent polling was reported. BJP President L.K. Advani is seeking election from prestigious New Delhi seat, earlier represented by Defence Minister K.C. Pant. Pant refused to fight this time.

Reports reaching with Election Commission said the polling was dull in the morning, but picked up as the day advanced.

However, in some states, polling was brisk from the start and long queues were seen outside the polling booths.

Polling was simultaneously held for 568 assembly constituencies spread over Andhra Pradesh, Goa and parts of Uttar Pradesh states.

In the Kashmir valley polling was brisk in some areas despite the boycott call given by secessionist and separatist forces.

The second phase of polling will be held on Nov 24 which will decide the fate of over 2700 candidates in 261 parliamentary seats. The third and final phase will take place on Nov 26.

The Election Commission deployed observers for many constituencies where it apprehended trouble and violence.

The National Front has built its platform on pledges of honest, capable government, accusing Rajiv of presiding over a coterie of corruption and inefficiency.



Rajiv smiles as he casts his vote. (Reuters wirephoto)



Sonia casting her ballot. (Reuters wirephoto)

Four eye PM's job

100-year-old lady votes

'I get 10 rupees'

NEW DELHI, (Reuters) Four men have their eye on the prime minister's office in India's general election.

One will definitely get the job if his party wins — and might be bundled into political oblivion if it doesn't. One has a good chance. Two are hoping hard.

Rajiv Gandhi, the incumbent, heir to the Nehru dynasty, will get a new five-year term of office if his Congress Party retained its overall majority. There are serious mutterings at high level in the party that he should be dumped if it fails.

Now 45, former airline pilot Rajiv entered politics reluctantly in 1980 when his brother Sanjay, heir apparent to their mother Indira Gandhi, was killed. He became prime minister when Indira was assassinated in 1984.

In the last two years he has been dogged by unproven bribery charges. Many party officials also blame him for failing to follow through on his passionate promise to rejuvenate Congress by getting rid of its old guard power brokers and for allowing its grassroots organisation to decay.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Rajiv's former finance and defence minister, now fiercest critic, Singh, 58, is the most likely opposition candidate if its alliance wins. He abandoned Rajiv in 1987 to campaign against alleged government corruption and was instrumental in putting together an almost united opposition from usually squabbling parties.

Known as the Raja of Mandla, the adopted son of the minor royal family is the only nationally-known figure the opposition has and its most experienced in government. He heads the centrist Janata Dal, core of the alliance, but is not certain to become prime minister.

Devi Lal: A powerful figure in Janata Dal to whom many of its candidates owe their allegiance. He is chief minister of Haryana state, next door to Delhi.

Party sources say despite his public support of VP Singh for prime minister, he nurses a fierce desire for the job and no one is ruling out a bid.

A leader of the Jat peasant caste of Punjab and Haryana, Devi Lal says he is too uncul-

ture to be acceptable as prime minister. But he is widely respected as one of India's smartest politicians and whether he gets the job or not, he would be a central power-broker in an opposition government.

Nadamuni Taraka Rama Rao, 56, is more simply known as NTR to Telugu-language film fans he thrived for 35 years in an acting career devoted largely to

playing Hindu gods and heroes. He is chairman of the National Front, the alliance grouping five opposition parties.

The chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state in the south, he is unlikely to fulfill his dream of becoming prime minister. Opposition sources say he could be a compromise candidate if a major fight breaks out over the job.

He cannot be prime minister again or even a minister or anything important," Madan said in an interview with the newspaper.

Madan, who says he predicted the death of Rajiv's mother Indira in 1984 and a plane crash that killed Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq last year, said many politicians had consulted him in the past few weeks.

Predicting that opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh would oust Rajiv, he said "Even if the faces rough weather over the next few days V.P. Singh will be the next prime minister."

Celebrated Bombay astrologer Jagjit Uppal disagreed. "I have been studying the destiny data of important political leaders in India and my assessment is that Rajiv Gandhi will come back to power," he said.

Uppal forecast that an opposition alliance led by Singh's Janata Dal would fall apart after the elections, which began on Wednesday and will last until Sunday.

Gurus differ over results

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Politicians have beaten a path to a tiny shack on stilts where a naked Hindu guru gives advice and blesses supplicants by placing a foot on their heads, the Indian Express newspaper said.

Guru Devraha Baba, who never wears clothes, is only one of the many respected Indian astrologers, soothsayers and spiritual mentors who are widely consulted on marriages, business deals and, not least, politics.

As national elections got under way on Wednesday, the astrologers could not agree on whether Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would survive.

New Delhi astrologer Lachman Das Madan went along with recent opinion polls which showed him in deep trouble.

"He cannot be prime minister again or even a minister or anything important," Madan said in an interview with the newspaper.

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Minister killed Police used: says Rajmohan

HYDERABAD, India, Nov 22, (Agencies): At least 22 people, including Gujarat health minister, were killed today as India's general elections began. Scores were injured, including a polling officer who had a hand chopped off.

The worst violence was in southern Andhra Pradesh state where police said 12 people were killed, six of them when rival party supporters fought with bombs, guns and knives.

The violence brings to 37 the number of people killed in poll-related violence in the last two days.

Police said unidentified attackers chopped the official's hand off in the Andhra Pradesh town of Rayachoti when they stormed his polling station following a fatal stabbing of a local independent candidate for the state assembly.

They said most of the fighting was between supporters of the Telugu Desam Party and of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

The Gujarat health minister Vallabhai Patel was stabbed by an unidentified person at a Con-

gress (I) election meeting at Hatmaziana village last night. He died while being operated upon at the Rajkot civil hospital this morning. Police nabbed the assailant, who was identified as Aniruddh-hasingh Diadeja.

According to the doctors, there were four wounds on Patel's body. There were two wounds on the chest and one each on the abdomen and back. Despite heavy loss of blood before reaching the hospital, Patel was conscious till he was taken to the operation theatre.

In his dying declaration before the executive magistrate Patel said that he was attacked by someone unknown to him.

The injury on the chest had caused serious damage to lungs, doctors attending on him said. Ten bottles of blood were transfused into Patel during the six-hour unsuccessful operation.

Three people including one each supporter of the ruling Congress (I) and Janata Dal were killed in exchange of fire in Bhagpat, Uttar Pradesh constituency where from Janata Dal leader Ajit Singh is contesting.

NEW DELHI, Nov 22, (Kuma): Rajmohan Gandhi, who is fighting against Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the Janata Dal ticket from Amethi today complained that he and his party workers were manhandled by police at Jagdishpur in Amethi parliamentary seat in Uttar Pradesh this morning.

In a letter to the Election Commission, Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, has also demanded rescheduling of poll in Jagdishpur segment, which forms part of the Amethi constituency.

He alleged that police has been threatening and intimidating the Janata Dal workers and colluding with the Congress (I) agents in attacking them.

Besides Rajmohan Gandhi, Babujan Samaj Party chief Kamal Kaur is also contesting against the prime minister. There are several independent candidates in the fray. One of the independent candidates is reported missing since Friday last.

Rajmohan Gandhi said despite reminders and advance warning in the last two days, no action was taken by the commission. He said "It is absolutely unacceptable by any civilised democratic nation that police force is used to sabotage polling."

India upholds tradition of democracy despite strife

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Torn apart by sectarian strife, steeped in poverty and afflicted with endemic corruption, India nevertheless upholds an unparalleled tradition of democracy.

This is being demonstrated this week in elections involving the world's largest electorate, 500 million voters.

Apart from the sheer magnitude of the poll, India's democracy is particularly notable among Third World nations beset by coups, dictatorships and rigged polls, social historian Promilla Kapur said in an interview.

"It's a tradition based on incredible con-

traditions and striking contrasts," said Kapur, author of several books on Indian society.

Contradictions run deep. While bullocks still pull ploughs on most farms, India has developed and tested its own missile.

While nearly 40 per cent of India's 800 million people live below the poverty line, some of the nation's tiny ruling class enjoy a caviar-and-champagne lifestyle.

Illiteracy is near 60 per cent, yet India has probably the world's biggest pool of highly skilled workers and Indian expatriates with scientific or technical qualifications find jobs all over the world.

Women are killed in dowry disputes at the rate of one every four days in Delhi alone. Yet one woman — Indira Gandhi — ruled India with an iron grip for 15 years.

"Our system is definitely one in which inequalities and injustice are rampant," said Kapur, who thinks people tolerate it because of the fatalism of India's dominant Hindu faith.

Sociologists believe the Hindu doctrine of "Karma" — which holds that a person's status and fate are determined by their deeds in a previous existence — is why Marxism has never become a national movement here.

"People say it is our karma all too easily and accept their lot," said Kapur.

The historian also credits India's independent judiciary and raucously free press with providing invaluable escape valves. People relieve tension by going to court for redress or seeing corruption exposed in the press, she added.

Sociologists say the democratic tradition has also acted as a catharsis, allowing Indians to make their feelings known in general elections held every five years.

But in yet another of India's endless contradictions, voters still largely elect people from the upper classes who would have been

their rulers in feudal times.

The high-caste Nehru dynasty — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, his mother Indira and grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru — has ruled India for 37 of its 42 years of independence.

Some 30 former princes and princesses — stripped of their feudal rights in 1972 — are standing as candidates in this week's elections and all are almost certain to win.

The feudal system based on caste dominates the agricultural economy especially in the electorally crucial Hindi-speaking areas of the north, said George Matthews of the Institute of Social Sciences.

Ironically, this democratic tradition may be indirectly responsible for perhaps the greatest threat to its development that India faces — its fast-increasing population.

India's most strenuous efforts to control a population expected to outstrip that of China's by early next century came in the 1970s.

But the whole programme collapsed when both Hindus and Muslims accused each other of taking advantage of it to increase their own numbers, said Bhabani Sengupta of the Centre for Policy Research in Delhi.

"It brought out the best and worst in society," he said.

Rate of growth may bog down

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Political instability likely to result from this week's elections could slow India's growth dangerously, analysts said on Wednesday.

They said the new government would also face a resource crisis brought on by plunging foreign exchange reserves, unbridled domestic demand and a complacent monetary policy.

Leading opinion polls have said Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi could lose his majority in Parliament in the voting yesterday, Friday and Sunday, but Rajiv predicted victory after he voted yesterday in New Delhi.

"I think the concern now is more one of whether the political uncertainty is going to slow the rate of growth," a senior international economist told Reuters.

Helped by good rainfall and a record foodgrain harvest, India's gross domestic product growth is estimated at 10 per cent in real terms in 1988/89 ending March after 3.6 per cent a year earlier.

But a senior government economist said there was unease about election promises made by Rajiv, who announced a 50 billion rupee (\$3 billion) welfare scheme for women last Sunday, and the opposition, which has promised a massive shift of resources to the rural sector.

Over the past four years, India has pursued a policy of boosting exports to help finance a growing foreign debt and imports that outstrip exports by about 50 per cent.

The World Bank estimates India's foreign debt grew to \$48.3 billion at end-1988 from 46.4 billion at end-1987.

"The temptation to restrain imports will be great for the new government. It could slip into more import controls," the economist said. But import cutbacks would hit industrial growth, which has averaged over eight per cent since 1985.

The fiscal management of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is another area of concern, he said. "They are letting reserves slip away without any plan of action," he added.

RBI figures show that broad money supply (M3), which comprises currency with the public, aggregate deposits with banks, and other deposits with the RBI, jumped 17.6 per cent to 1.92 trillion rupees (\$113 billion) in 1988/89 from 1.63 trillion (\$96 billion) in 1987/88.

In its report for the year ended June 30, the RBI said: "It is necessary to ensure that expansion of M3 during 1989/90 is contained to a level lower than the average of the last four years (16.7 per cent)."

But official figures show that M3 in fact grew by 18.5 per cent to 2.06 trillion rupees at end-September against 1.74 trillion a year earlier.

At the same time, the government's budget deficit rose to 79.4 billion rupees (\$4.6 billion) in 1988/89 ending March from 74.8 billion rupees (\$4.4 billion) a year earlier and 58.2 billion (\$3.4 billion) in 1987/88.

So far, the economist said, the deficit has not squeezed out private capital because domestic investments continue to boom, but at some point India might be forced to go back to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help.

"But a really weak government would have difficulty putting together an economic programme that would earn IMF approval," he added.

"Keeping government expenditure under wraps is going to be pretty important. I certainly don't think there should be a spending programme," the government economist said.

He said concern was also growing over galloping domestic demand from a middle class estimated at more than 100 million. "Over domestic demand and exports flat," he added.

Fiscal indiscipline has occurred at the same time as a sharp fall in foreign exchange reserves.

Official figures show foreign exchange reserves, excluding gold and special drawing rights, fell to a low of \$2.9 billion at end-August from 4.9 billion at end-March.

Exports grew 38 per cent in the April-August period this year to \$6 billion from a year earlier. Exports in 1988/89 jumped 29 per cent to \$12.07 billion from 1987/88.

But imports have also ballooned, and official figures show the trade deficit rose to \$4.4 billion in 1988/89 from \$3.9 billion in 1987/88.

The World Bank estimates that as a result, the current account deficit shot up to \$5.4 billion in 1988/89 from \$4.5 billion a year earlier.

Lacks training

Rajiv beset by crises

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): After five years as India's prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi faces his second general election beset by problems ranging from allegations of corruption to trouble in Punjab and a row with Sri Lanka.

India was in turmoil when the inexperienced Rajiv succeeded his assassinated mother as prime minister on October 31, 1984. He was confirmed in office two months later with unprecedented landslide election victory.

A hurried four-year political apprenticeship had given the former airline pilot little training for the task of running the world's largest democracy at the age of 40.

Hindus attacked Sikhs in revenge for his mother's killing by Sikh bodyguards, but Rajiv weathered the storm and his first year in office was marked by conciliation in efforts to solve regional disputes and breathe new life into the regulation-bound economy.

As the end of his five-year term approached, his announcement in October of election on November 22, 24 and 26 for more than 500 Members of Parliament caught the often fractious opposition unprepared although they soon recovered.

Determined to field one common candidate in most constituencies against Rajiv's ruling Congress Party, the opposition has been united in making Rajiv and corruption the central themes of its campaign.

Rajiv's party is fighting with its back against the wall against charges of illegal pay-offs in arms deals and corruption in high places.

Rajiv's Punjab policy has failed to stop killings by separatists fighting for a Sikh homeland in the north Indian state.

Indian involvement in Sri Lanka embroiled Rajiv in a bruising row with the Sri Lankan government over Colombo's demand for an early withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops.

Indian soldiers were first sent to Sri Lanka in 1987 to police an attempted political settlement to the island's conflict between Tamil guerrillas and the majority Sinhalese.

The majority irritant, however, was a lingering bribery scandal over payments made by Sweden's Bofors company to obtain a 1.3-billion dollar contract for army field guns.

Rajiv's reputation as a vote-winner, dented in a series of reverses in state assembly polls, suffered a body-blow when his former finance and defence minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh helped forge a fragile opposition unity.

Despite his problems, Rajiv remained the Congress Party's only obvious leader as scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty which has dominated Indian politics since independence. But V.P. Singh provided a focal point for Congress opponents which formed a loose multi-party alliance to fight the polls.

Rajiv has cultivated the image of a modern world leader, maintaining India's non-aligned stance while preserving a close relationship with the Soviet Union.

Benazir Bhutto's election as prime minister of Pakistan in late 1988 prompted a warming in relations between the two neighbours which have fought three wars.

Rajiv also travelled to Beijing in December 1988 signalling a new chapter in relations with China, frozen since a brief border war in 1962. Rajiv sought to improve ties with the United States and to open the country's protected economy to urgently needed Western technology.

His political style was hampered by the need for heavy security. Having escaped two attempts on his life by Sikhs, he wears a bullet-proof vest in public.

Rajiv, born in Bombay on August 20, 1944, has the politics of modern India flowing through his veins.

His great-grandfather Motilal Nehru was an influential figure in the Indian National Congress struggling against British colonial rule.

Grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru became independent India's first prime minister in 1947 and ruled for 17 years. Nehru's daughter Indira came to power in 1966, two years after his death, and dominated political life for almost two decades.

Rajiv was educated at India's exclusive Doon school. He attended Trinity College, Cambridge, but did not graduate. He also studied engineering at Imperial College, London.

In England he met Italian student Sonia Maino, daughter of a Turin industrialist. They were married in New Delhi in 1968.

On his return from England, Rajiv flew as a co-pilot on the domestic carrier Indian Airlines.

He lived quietly in his mother's house with his wife and two children, while his younger brother Sanjay enthusiastically took up the family's political tradition and became his mother's key adviser.

Sanjay's death in a flying accident in June 1980 changed everything.

A distraught Indira Gandhi put all her hopes on the reluctant Rajiv, who gave up his airline job, won the parliamentary seat formerly held by Sanjay and in 1983 became one of five secretaries-general of the Congress Party.

When his mother was killed the following year, there was only one obvious successor.

V.P. Singh vows

Reluctant to become PM

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Vishwanath Pratap Singh is an opposition leader who says he does not want to be prime minister.

Singh, 58, once finance and defence minister and now a leader of an opposition coalition fighting a general election, once said he would be a disaster in the job.

"I will stand by my earlier statement that I will never accept any office," he told Reuters in the run-up to the election. "After everything is over, I'll have politics on my own terms."

But few in the opposition alliance coalition that Singh stitched together believed he could not be persuaded to take it on.

That faith reflected Singh's emergence as India's main opposition leader after he abandoned Congress and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to fight corruption.

Rajiv's former finance and defence minister, Singh quit in April 1987 in a Congress Party furore over a probe he ordered into an alleged defence payoff.

A later scandal over alleged bribes paid by the Swedish company Bofors to win a \$1.3 billion arms contract became Singh's biggest issue. He is seen by many as the inheritor of Rajiv's "Mr Clean" image.

His break with Rajiv became complete with his expulsion from Congress in July 1987 and, soon after, the soft-spoken Singh got to work organising the opposition along with three others who had challenged Rajiv's leadership.

First they set up their own party, the Jan Morcha, to fight what they said was Rajiv's failure to investigate the corruption scandals.

An opposition front backed him to victory in a by-election in June 1988 in his hometown of Allahabad on a campaign platform which focused on the corruption charges.

The victory persuaded three main opposition groups, the Janata Party, Lok Dal and Jan Morcha, to merge in late 1988 to create the Janata Dal, or people's party.

After much persuasion he was elected president of the new party, which strongly resembled the Janata Party that toppled Rajiv's mother Indira in 1977 but broke up in 1979. Singh was instrumental in persuading several regional parties to join Janata Dal in a National Front to fight the November 1989 elections.

Rajiv called elections several weeks earlier than necessary hoping to prevent the National Front agreeing on single candidates, but the gamble did not succeed.

Singh and his colleagues ensured Congress would face a single candidate from the major opposition parties in the great majority of the contests for the first time since 1977.

Singh, an adopted scion of a minor princely family who lists painting and photography as his leisure interests, first joined Rajiv's cabinet in 1985 as finance minister, moving swiftly against tax-evaders, currency violators, and the black economy.

The raids and tax reforms increased government revenues and earned Singh the tag of top corruption fighter, but they alienated the powerful business community, a key contributor to Congress coffers.

In January 1987 Rajiv shifted Singh to the Defence Ministry—a portfolio Rajiv had held—ostensibly because border tension with Pakistan required a full-time minister in charge of national security.

Singh was soon in trouble again after he ordered an inquiry into allegations of a \$23 million kickback in the purchase of West German submarines in 1981.

Both the manufacturer and the government denied the charges, but Singh quit after cabinet colleagues accused him of rushing into the probe without consulting them.

Four days later, the Bofors scandal broke with a report on Swedish state radio alleging bribes had been paid. Rajiv, his government and Bofors all denied wrongdoing, but the charges gave crucial fuel to Singh's anti-corruption campaign.

He has stumped the country ever since. His election campaign was typically without frills. "Big money is still going to the Congress Party and we are fighting against its role in elections and politics," he said.

Singh was born on June 25, 1931, in Allahabad, also Rajiv's ancestral home. He was educated at Allahabad and Poona universities and gained degrees in arts, science and law.

He joined Congress early in his career after donating a large part of the family estates for redistribution among the landless.

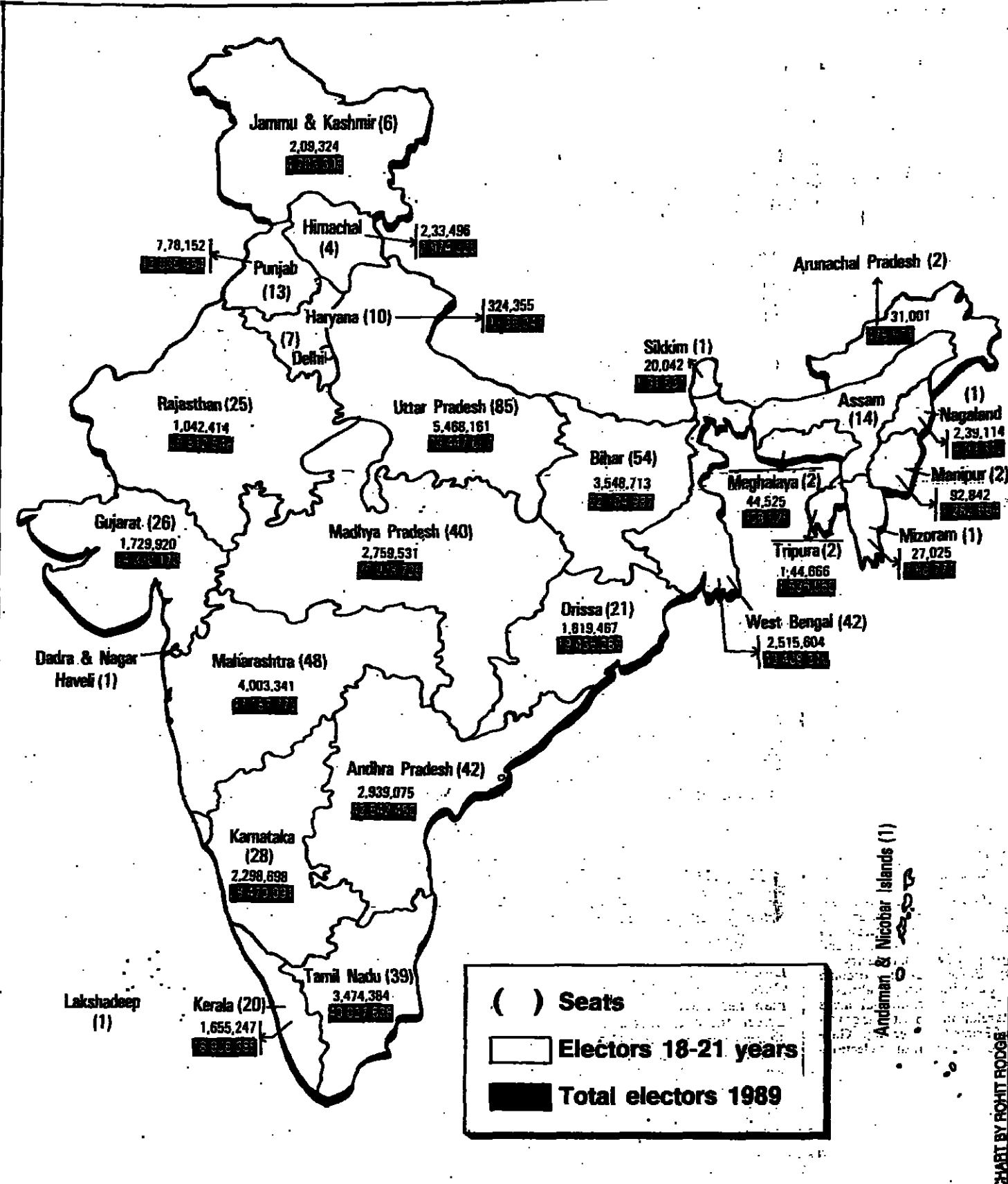
In 1969, he was elected to the Uttar Pradesh state assembly and two years later the powerful Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament).

Singh moved up the political ladder quickly. In 1974, he became deputy commerce minister and was elevated to the cabinet as full minister just two years later.

He went back to Uttar Pradesh in 1980 to become the state's chief minister, but resigned in 1982 to take responsibility for the failure to wipe out widespread banditry.

The following year he was back in Indira Gandhi's cabinet in his old job. Under Rajiv, Indira's son, he continued climbing until, he says, he became sick of the corruption.

Singh married in 1955 and has two sons.



Plethora of parties jostle

6,090 candidates: voting age 18

Elections at a glance

NEW DELHI, (Reuters) The Indian elections starting on Wednesday feature for only the second time in the country's 42 years of independence a largely united opposition trying to oust Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

The main opposition parties have struck a seat-sharing deal to put up single candidates in about 400 contests for the 545-member Parliament.

The opposition is an alliance of five parties called the National Front, each running under its own banner, with participation in the seat deal from two other parties—the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPIM).

Most of the more than 6,000 candidates are independents. Following are brief profiles of the major parties.

Congress has ruled India for all but two years since independence from Britain in 1947. Its traditional support base are the Brahmins, the priestly caste at the top of India's Hindu social system. Harijans or untouchables at the bottom, and the 100 million Muslims in the middle.

Traditional socialist policies aimed for self-sufficiency, achieved in terms of food. Rajiv introduced changes, opening the economy to the outside world. It has promised both village and urban programmes bypassing state governments and national unity, saying the opposition would fragment India.

Unproven allegations that Sweden's Bofors company paid huge bribes to win a \$1.3 billion arms deal have damaged Rajiv and Congress. India's opinion polls say it will lose its overall majority.

Janata Dal: the centrist core of the national front is itself a coalition of three parties. It promises a

NEW DELHI, India, (AP): Here are some facts on the Indian parliamentary elections, scheduled for Nov 22, 24 and 26:

■ **Voting:** Voting will be held from 8 am (0230 GMT) to 5 pm (1130 GMT) in most places and an hour earlier in the northeastern states, where daylight hours are shorter. 221 constituencies go to the polls on Nov 22, 266 on Nov 24 and 37 on Nov 26, a total of 524.

■ **The voters:** At least 498 million Indians are registered voters. The government last year lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, adding about 35 million people to the electorate.

■ **At stake:** The winners of the elections will enter the Lok Sabha or house of the people, the decision-making lower house of Parliament. The house has 545 members, of whom two are nominated. Polls are not being held for 14 seats in the northeastern state of Assam because voters' lists have not been completed and elections in four constituencies, one candidate ran unopposed.

■ **The candidates:** 6,090 candidates, including at least 4,000 independents, are competing. Candidates are also from eight national parties, 33 state parties and 251 other parties. The Congress Party of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is fielding 509 candidates. The National Front, an opposition coalition, is fighting 314 seats. In most constituencies, the

front has agreed not to oppose candidates of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, which is fielding 226 candidates, the Communist Party of India (fighting 53 seats). However, the left parties and the right-wing group will oppose each other.

■ **Key issues:** The Congress Party, which won an unprecedented 415 seats in the last elections in 1984, is beset by opposition charges of corruption and opinion polls say it may lose its majority. The governing party has campaigned this year on a platform of past performances and a call for continuing stability in government. The platforms of Congress and its coalition opposition are similar.

■ **Counting:** Counting of votes begins at 11 am (0530 GMT) on Nov 26 and first results are not expected until seven hours later.

■ **Previous election:** In the 1984 election, the Congress Party won 415 seats, the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party 2, the centrist Janata (people's) Party 10, the centrist Lok Kranti Dal (people's) revolutionary party 3, the Communist Party of India 6, the Communist Party-Marxist 22, the Congress Party-Socialist 5, major state parties 59, smaller parties 16 and independents 5.

In the current elections, the Janata Party, the Lok Kranti Dal, the Congress-Socialist and three of the larger state parties have formed the National Front coalition.

massive switch of resources to rural areas where 80 per cent of Indians live, to write off farming loans, redistribute land and wealth and give everyone a job. Above all it promises clean government—and to investigate the Bofors scandal.

Its leader, former Rajiv ally Vishwanath Pratap Singh who has campaigned chiefly on the corruption issue, is the leading candidate for prime minister if the opposition wins.

The National Front is com-

pleted by Congress (S), a splinter group from Rajiv's party, and three regional parties ruling Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh states, both in the south and Assam in the northeast.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): a revivalist Hindu party that polls show is making serious inroads into the votes of India's 650 million Hindus.

It has refused to join the National Front but agreed to the seat-sharing deal. Willing to support a National Front govern-

ment but will only decide whether to join it when policies become clear.

The BJP has been the major beneficiary of Hindu-Muslim violence that punctuated a campaign in which it has vowed to end the "appeasement" of minorities by taking away special privileges.

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPIM): has ruled West Bengal from Calcutta for 12 years, making it India's longest-serving state government.

Sectarian violence haunts Kashmir campaign

JAMMU, India, (AP): Armed policemen instead of cheering crowds followed the campaign trail in Jammu-Kashmir, as pro-Pakistan militants urged voters in India's only state with a Muslim majority to boycott this week's national elections.

Political activists lost interest in electioneering after 44 bombs exploded and police opened fire six times on violent mobs. At least 12 people have been killed since elections were announced Oct 17.

Handwritten posters warn voters they will be shot to death if

they come out of houses to cast their ballots on Wednesday and Friday, the two days Jammu-Kashmir is to vote.

Jammu-Kashmir had only six seats in the 543-member lower house of Parliament. But the northern state, strategically located on the disputed India-Pakistan border, has been the flashpoint of Muslim separatism since the two countries were partitioned along religious lines upon attaining independence from Britain in 1947.

The Kashmir Liberation Front, the dominant militant

group spearheading the boycott, wants Kashmir to secede from predominantly Hindu India and merge with Muslim Pakistan.

Jammu-Kashmir state was formed from two pre-independence kingdoms. Both were ruled by Hindus, but most Kashmiris were Muslims and most of Jammu's people were Hindus.

Today, 64 per cent of the state's 5 million people are Muslims and 32 per cent are Hindu. Most of the rest are Buddhists.

Muslims who advocate secession say any vote cast in this

week's election would concede India's right to rule Kashmir. They say Kashmiris should be allowed to decide their own fate: either independence or union with Pakistan.

The Kashmir Liberation Front, in a statement issued late last month, said an election boycott will "deny yet another opportunity to New Delhi for misleading world opinion that people of Kashmir have once again put their seal of approval on the finality of accession."

A few days later the People's League, another militant group,

issued a statement by its jailed leader, Shabir Ahmed Shah: "We have launched a decisive struggle for the liberation of Kashmir and every Kashmiri owed it to himself to join this struggle."

The People's League urged a boycott to "show to the world that people of Kashmir are not going to compromise" on independence.

Government efforts to instill confidence among voters and campaigners by deploying soldiers in sensitive areas have had little success.

No party flags flutter. Banners and posters are absent. Loudspeakers are silent. Only sporadic bomb blasts, anti-India slogans and retaliatory police firing break the silence.

At least eight people were killed and more than 200 injured when police fired on mobs in Srinagar, Sopur and Anantnag.

Militants gunned down two policemen, a politician and a retired judge and exploded scores of bombs, damaging government buildings, bridges and homes.

Two independent candidates

withdrew from the elections after receiving death threats.

In the Srinagar constituency, only one candidate sought office and has already been declared elected unopposed.

Hriday Nath Jattu, a leader of the Hindu community, said Kashmiri Hindus will not vote. "We do not want to be gunned down by terrorists," Jattu said.

At least 210 of 4,000 government employees slated for election duty refused to work after receiving threats, according to Moosa Raza, the state's chief secretary.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Al Khaled to open Iraqi trade fair

Kuwait and Iraq to strengthen economic ties

By M. C. Bose
Business Editor

KUWAIT'S Commerce and Industry Minister, Faisal Al Khaled will open the Iraqi Trade Fair on Saturday at 4.00 pm at the International Fair Ground in Mishref area. The commercial councillor at the Iraqi embassy in Kuwait, Raheem Taher Hussein told the Arab Times yesterday that 35 Iraqi private and public establishments will take part in the fair. A wide selection of Iraqi products will be exhibited and will also be available for sale to the public.

The products range from dairy, sugar, detergents, soaps, construction materials, ready-made garments, woollen and leather products, tobacco products, silk, cotton and electrical goods. The exhibits will also include batteries for all uses, vehicle tyres, engineering products, paper products, electronic appliances and TV aerials, and many others.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Commerce Minister, Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Saleh, who will visit Kuwait specially for the fair, has advanced his investment seminar from the previous date of Sunday to Saturday at 10.00 am at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Raheem Taher Hussein, commercial councillor at the Iraqi embassy in Kuwait, says that 35 Iraqi private and public establishments will take part in the fair.

The minister will also explain the new Iraqi investment law, issued last year, and the opportunities it provided particularly for the Arab investors. The Kuwaiti and Iraqi ministers will hold talks to discuss ways of further strengthening the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The Iraqi investment law was issued in April 1988 by the Iraqi Revolutionary Council for the Arab investments in Iraq.

The main objective of the law is to promote Arab investments in Iraq in order to contribute to the Iraqi development process and ultimately contribute to Arab economic integration. The law also regulates and controls Arab investments in Iraqi industrial, agricultural, services and tourism projects.

The new law provides any Arab national, holding the nationality of any Arab country to apply for setting up of any project in Iraq. The Iraqi investors can share in the projects with a maximum share of 49 per cent of the project capital to be paid in Iraqi dinars and thus will receive profits also in the Iraqi currency. The law totally bans Arab companies which have some non-Arab foreign share in its capital, irrespective of the amount of the share, from taking part or establishing any investment project in Iraq.

Bofors battles to regain image

KARLSKOGA, Sweden, Nov 22, (AP) — For more than a century the name Bofors commanded respect as a maker of top-quality weapons and a symbol of Swedish industry.

Lukman rules out quick Opec pact

Subroto optimistic about output accord

LAGOS, Nov 22, (Agencies): Opec president Rilwanu Lukman has ruled out any quick agreement on carving up market shares when the oil group's 13 members meet in Vienna this week.

Libya may seek higher oil quota

ABU DHABI, Nov 22, (Reuters): Libya likely to demand a higher oil sales quota if Opec raises the group's overall ceiling in talks in Vienna on Saturday, its oil minister was quoted as saying.

other Opec countries tomorrow in Vienna for a meeting of the organisation's strategic market monitoring committee.

Soviets plan aid package for Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan, Nov 22, (AP) — The Soviet Union is conducting one of the largest aid programmes in its history to prop up the government in Kabul, transporting billions of dollars in weapons, food and fuel to the war-torn nation.

New talent discovered Fido Dido captures medals

CHICAGO, Nov 22: Fido Dido, the recently-introduced star of 7 Up International's new advertising campaign, "It's cool to be clear," and an emerging celebrity on the commercial television scene, has captured both a coveted gold medal award at the International Film and Television Festival of New York and a Gold Hugo from the International Chicago Film Festival.

Other arms manufacturers have been implicated in other cases of alleged unauthorised sales. Bofors spokesman Borje Johansson, a former army lieutenant colonel, said Bofors now is "playing strictly to the book" and concentrating on "delivering good products and fulfilling contracts." Unethical deals "will not exist," he said.

Pound under pressure

Gold continues its rally

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): Fears that Britain's trade deficit widened last month knocked the pound sterling to a lower close today, dealer said.

Gold continued its recent rally with a four-dollar rise to finish at \$408.25 an ounce in London but analysts said it would probably falter soon.

'Debt figures falsified'

BUDAPEST, Nov 22, (Reuters): Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth said today that Hungary had falsified its foreign debt figures since the 1970s and that its gross debt would exceed \$20 billion by the end of this year.

The figure is about \$2 billion higher than the \$17.8 billion published by the National Bank of Hungary's total foreign debt at the end of August. The earlier figure was already the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

EEC's charter is a set of vague guidelines

STRASBOURG, France, Nov 22, (AP): European parliamentarians threatened today to slow progress toward the European Economic Community's 1992 internal market if there are no gains on a social welfare proposal.

The charter will be taken up by the 12 heads of state and government during their French summit meeting Dec 8 and 9.

Life is not a bed of roses for Egyptians in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Nov 22, (Reuters): Some one million Egyptians, mostly unskilled workers fleeing high inflation and unemployment rates at home, work in Iraq.

while Baghdad hinted at some Egyptian "elements" among the workers inciting trouble.

Committee to regulate workers

CAIRO, Nov 22, (Reuters): The Egyptian government, responding to an exodus of Egyptian workers from Iraq, decided yesterday to set up a permanent committee to regulate a huge army of migrant workers, the semi-official daily Al-Ahram said.

money," According to some reports, Egyptian workers are owed a total of some \$350 million and many who have returned home gather every day at the Cairo branch of Iraq's Rafidain Bank to demand their money.

plaint, saying: "We finish the work as fast as we can. It is our duty to serve them and look after their rights."

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BUSINESS

Mr Adjustment, the banker with a passion for Africa

PARIS, Nov 22, (Reuters): Edward Jaycox speaks of Africa's problems with the passion of a missionary. "When I studied economics there were 20 crops that were known as African crops. Now they are Asian," lamented Jaycox at a recent Paris news conference.

How to assist Africa and halt the calamitous decline of an entire continent has been Jaycox's consuming task in two years as the World Bank's vice-president in charge of the region.

Development officials in African capitals refer to him in private as "Mr Adjustment."

Adjustment is a prescription the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) write out when an ailing nation turns to the two institutions for help in saving its economy.

About 30 African countries are now on that pill — an amalgam of free-market policies with a strong dose of austerity measures. Jaycox monitors their progress.

During a tour of Europe early this month, Jaycox addressed packed press conferences clutching a glossy 300-page book.

The report entitled "Sub-Saharan Africa: From crisis to sustainable growth" and formally released on Tuesday, details the bank's verdict on whether Africa will survive or not.

It proposes pulling Africa out of its poverty with a new deal that would dwarf the sums spent on rebuilding Western Europe after the destruction of World War Two.

A massive study, it looks back 30 years and forward another 30 at the sub-Saharan — the largely impoverished belt between the lower reaches of the Sahara Desert and white-ruled South Africa.

The 450 million inhabitants of the region are gripped by a chilling economic crisis caused by depressed international markets for their commodity exports, ravaging environmental problems and political instability.

Jaycox has been dealing with development problems, mainly in Africa, ever since joining the bank in 1964.

He has never lived in Africa for any length of time except for a six-month hitch-hike from Cairo to the Zambezi River far south and back.

But as an economist in the World Bank's transportation department and, later as vice-president for Eastern and Southern Africa, he spent some 10 years in Washington handling projects ranging from highways to harbours in the region.

Despite Africa's crisis, he remains optimistic.

"We are seeing one of the most thorough sets of major problems coming together in one place," he says in a microphone-perfect baritone. "Others see this glass as half-empty, I see it as half-full and filling."

The 51-year-old American economist can also be brutal in putting the blame squarely on Africans for their economic plight.

Returning to his favourite theme of the 20 crops, he says Africa lost commodity markets to Asia because its leaders failed to take the right measures.

"Africa gave these markets away. Africa did not invest in production, did not invest in infrastructure, did not lower the cost of production and kept exchange rates rigid."

Then he reels out basic economics from an unending repertoire.

"It is very important to understand that it is not the price of a commodity that is really the point. It's the profitability of a product."

"It is much cheaper to produce light bulbs these days than it was 25 years ago. It does not mean it is no longer profitable to make light bulbs."

By the same direct approach he explains the decline of Nigeria, black Africa's richest nation, from a medium-level economy to a debt-ridden country after its oil boom of the 1970s.

Nigerian leaders failed to be prudent in the face of an economy dependent on the single product oil.

"Governments will have to control their expenditure. One windfall does not a future make," Jaycox adds.

African planners usually term such conclusions as over-simplistic. They say the industrialised capitalist world committed to force down commodity prices while the cost of their finished goods continued an upward trend.

Foreign economists in Khartoum said the junta, which overthrew an elected government in June, was expected to announce reforms before the end of the month in hope of restoring credit with the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF declared Sudan ineligible for fresh credit in 1986 and the country, racked by war and famine, is behind in its payments by an estimated \$1.4 billion.

"Sudan will tell the IMF that it sees the benefits of... reforms," said one Western economist. "But it will also tell the fund that it is economic and political nonsense to do it all at once."

The IMF has long demanded a unified and realistic foreign exchange rate for the Sudanese pound, spending cuts and a freeze on state employment. It wants Sudan to collect more tax and to streamline or sell loss-making government ventures.

Economists said General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, the junta's strongman, would have to move cautiously because of political and social risks.

Iraq, Moscow poised to sign major economic accord

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Nov 22, (AP): Iraq and the Soviet Union are poised to sign a major economic agreement, and diplomats said today it may include a big project to build a pipeline for exporting natural gas to Central Europe.

Such a deal would match or exceed the value of an agreement reached last summer between Iraq and the Soviet Union for export of natural gas to the Soviets in exchange for expertise in rebuilding Iraq's war-shattered economy.

The agreement with Iraq, which could exceed \$6 billion in value, was negotiated here over 10 days by a Soviet team headed by Abel Aganbegyan, deputy head of the economic commission of the Soviet council of ministers.

The Iraqi team was headed by Adnan Al Ani, undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation.

Aganbegyan, who is also an economic adviser to the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, described the pact

as "an accord for the future and for the new generation."

He told reporters before leaving Baghdad last week that the accord would include projects by Soviet companies in the fields of oil, natural gas, petrochemical and electricity generation.

Aganbegyan gave no further details. Soviet diplomats, speaking on condition they not be identified further, said among projects discussed in a package proposed by the Soviet Union was the

building of a 930-mile (1,500-kilometre) pipeline for the export of liquefied gas products to the Soviet Union and East European countries.

The pipeline would run through Iraq and connect with an existing line through Turkey and Bulgaria to carry more than 3 million tons of Iraqi natural gas a year to Central Europe, boosting Iraq's gas export capacity to around 8 million tons a year.

The diplomats said the plan would be finalised during a visit by an Iraqi team

to Moscow early next year and when an agreement is reached, it is expected to be signed by Presidents Saddam Hussein and Gorbachev during a visit to Moscow by the Iraqi leader.

The 15-year co-operation deal also will include heavy Soviet involvement in Iraq's effort to develop and expand its oil and petrochemical industry.

Soviet companies will build a trans-Iraq pipeline to link the southern and northern gas-gathering systems.

The diplomats said the Soviet Union

also would help Iraq to develop its "west of Qurna" oilfield, about 40 miles (65 kilometres) from the southern city of Basra, to increase Iraq's crude oil production capacity by 1 million barrels a day.

In addition, the Soviets would build a \$1 billion extension of the gas-fueled power station at Yusifiya, the diplomats said.

The Soviet Union is Iraq's major supplier of arms. The two nations are bound by a treaty of friendship and co-operation.

Qatar studying the issue of public debt

Gulf capital markets face uncertain future

DUBAI, Nov 22, (Reuters): Gulf Arab capital markets face an uncertain future as regional state deficits, which encouraged their creation, disappear under a new influx of oil revenues.

The issue of public debt in the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states began only three years ago when the mid-1980s oil price collapse wiped out surpluses and threatened reserves.

But in a region where up to 90 per cent of revenues can come from oil, higher oil prices are reversing the equation.

Independent economists believe oil revenues in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar could be up to 30 per cent higher this year, largely due to firmer prices and higher output to match world demand.

"Deficits pushed governments into creating the markets. What happens if the deficits disappear?" asked one bank economist.

One group of Gulf policy-makers and economists want

much broader local markets to use private sector capital more efficiently for economic growth, rather than invested overseas.

But the traditional social and religious values of the region do not fit easily with free capital markets.

Traditionally, political and economic patronage was held firmly in the hands of Gulf Arab states. The hundreds of billions of oil dollars merely helped centralise control further, economists said.

"In these economies, the capital that has become available has been in governments' hands and has been channelled down to the private sector," said an official at one Gulf central bank.

Islam's ban on usury has restricted capital market growth by focusing religious disapproval on the use of interest rates, the economists said.

Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman have developed government debt markets. Qatar is studying the issue of public debt. The UAE has a weekly certificates of

deposit market.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest GCC economy, during the 1970s oil boom created an industrial sector almost totally with government funds.

When the state fell into deficit in the mid-1980s, funding this quasi-government industry became a burden.

Even Saudi Arabia's reserves were not limitless and, after drawing down tens of billions of dollars to finance the economy, in June, 1988 it began offering two to five year "development" bonds.

To help satisfy Islam, the bonds were issued in large denominations.

At first they were offered only to Saudi banks and institutions, and sold at a discount, linked to US treasuries at 20 to 50 points over like-dated US paper, Saudi-based economists said.

The result was that the bonds are attractive only when US treasuries are attractive, and the great bulk ended up on the books of government institutions and

local banks.

In an attempt to create a secondary market, banks were later allowed to sell them on to local investors, but this has been largely only as part of investment trust portfolios.

Opinion about the future of the market is divided. Some Western economists think a return to big state surpluses will at best lead to a suspension of activity in the bonds market.

But Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency Governor Sheikh Hamad Al Sayyari was quoted this week as saying that efforts to improve the efficiency of the market were continuing.

Others also believe that the government has seen the error of relying too much on state-led growth. "There might be another oil price crash," said a Gulf bank economist.

"The basic commitment to shift responsibility for economic growth to the private sector is there, although I am taking a long-term view of this," said a Saudi-based diplomat.

Fast measures to shore up economy

East Germany tries to curb speculation

EAST BERLIN, Nov 22, (Reuters): East Germany's reforming communist leaders plan a crackdown on smuggling and less central planning to shore up an economy sapped by political unrest and the flight of 275,000 citizens to the West.

Prime Minister Hans Modrow said his government would announce steps on Thursday to curb speculation in East German goods and money which has boomed since free travel to the West was introduced on November 9.

"Unpopular measures will have to be reckoned with," he said on Tuesday. "East Germany must not become a nation of speculators. I cannot understand how many citizens are simply throwing away money which they worked hard for."

While Modrow spoke to factory workers in East Berlin, the State Planning Commission said it would abolish more than half of the thousands of orders which individual industrial sectors have had to obey for decades.

The commission said it would stop requiring factories to meet production targets over

10-day and monthly period and would let local government councils fix their own budgets rather than follow instructions from East Berlin.

The measures undermined that East Germany's communist leaders, embarked on a whirlwind course of reform since early October, face the problem not only of how to hold on to power but how to restore an economy thrown into turmoil.

Once regarded as the economic heavyweight of Eastern Europe, East Germany has suffered a body blow with the flight to the West of tens of thousands of skilled young workers in factories and public services like health care.

The official news agency ADN estimated on Tuesday that 275,000 East Germans had left the country this year to settle in the West. The population was about 16.6 million at the start of the year.

The East German mark has crashed in value on the black market against the West German mark since the authorities ended decades of tight curbs on foreign travel and

allowed East Germans to visit the West freely.

Officially valued at parity, the East German mark fetched as little as five pfennigs, or one-twentieth of a West German mark, in some West Berlin street markets last weekend, compared with twice that just a few days before.

East Germans and foreigners, especially Poles, have been snapping up heavily subsidised goods such as shoes and sausages from East Berlin and selling them for a tidy profit in the western sector of the divided city.

Bishop Gottfried Forck of East Germany's influential Protestant Church said on Tuesday he had asked the West German government to consider imposing customs and exchange controls on its side of the border to stop smuggling.

Bonn is already thinking of changing its policy under which East Germans can collect 100 marks (\$54) in welcome money upon arrival in the West. Some East Germans have simply used the money to make a quick killing on the black market by converting it into their own currency.

Firm to invest in industrial projects

GCII aims to expand private sector role

By Khaled Ahmad

THE former secretary-general of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultations (GOIC) Dr. Abdullah Al Meijel, who was nominated to follow up establishing of the Gulf Company for Industrial Investment (GCII) said that procedures were going the right way.

He expected the third GOIC conference would be held in Muscat at the end of next month. This would be a good chance to announce names of founders of GCII.

He added that idea of setting-up the company appeared during the 2nd GOIC conference held in Riyadh in 1987.

A meeting of businessmen held in Manama at the beginning of this year agreed to establish the GCII which aims at developing the role of the private sector in developing Gulf industries. The company will invest its funds in profitable industrial projects.

The meeting selected a founding committee for the company consisting of ten members who represented the six GCC member states, besides membership of GOIC as observer, he said.

Dr Al Meijel pointed out that GOIC succeeded in dealing with private sector firms specially those who had small investments and small capitals.

It also succeeded in dealing with and treating problems that face the local markets because of increasing industrial production in the Gulf area. He stressed that projects offered by GOIC failed to be implemented because of lack of administration to run these projects.

He said that establishment of the GCII with a paid capital of \$100 million would solve this problem. He added that Gulf states should benefit from experiments and industrial administration in the world specially in Europe and Japan, which are re-organizing their industrial structures.

He added that a great number of aluminium factories were closed in Europe and Japan despite their high production as well as petrochemical factories due to the re-organization.

We should re-organize our industries in order to get the maximum benefits from these industries, he said.

Commenting on obstacles raised by Europe against the petrochemical exports of Arab Gulf states, he said that profits and good results achieved by the Gulf factories show that Europeans or others have no alternative but to buy Arab and Gulf petrochemical products.

He added that GCII has a list of projects to be carried out after being established. Eight or nine of these projects had been from the economic point of view.

He said that a unified Gulf area cannot be achieved except by unity of Gulf factories. He added that there were about 150 industrial businessmen who had expressed their desire to contribute to the company. The desire was to allow private sector to establish the company alone, he said.

He added that Gulf states should support their private sector. The joint company would carry out industrial projects in the Gulf area, he said.

Sheraton plans hotels in Moscow

ITT Sheraton recently announced plans for the development of hotels in Moscow, the first to be completed in 1992. Sheraton is the first major international hotel group to enter into such an agreement with Soviet authorities and expect to manage at least two hotels in Moscow.

John Kapiolotas, chairman, president and chief executive officer of ITT Sheraton Corporation, and Thomas Plaskett, chairman and chief executive officer of Pan Am, took part in a signing ceremony at the Soviet embassy in Washington hosted by Yuri V. Dubinin, Soviet ambassador to the United States.

The six-storey, 450 room world class Sheraton Moscow Hotel will be located on Gorky Street, about one mile from Red Square and initial plans call for the hotel to have a main restaurant, an English pub, a Russian tavern, a Japanese restaurant, an Italian restaurant and a discotheque.

American orders for durable goods drop

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (Reuters): Orders for durable goods, items ranging from refrigerators and cars to aircraft, tumbled 0.6 per cent in October after a revised 1.1 per cent fall in September, the US Commerce Department said today.

It said a 3 per cent jump in transportation orders tempered the October decline.

Excluding the volatile transportation sector from both months, orders fell 1.8 per cent in October after a 2.8 per cent rise in September.

Build to last three years or more, durable goods are a key part of the manufacturing sector, and orders for the big-ticket items are closely watched as an indicator of the economy's health.

The October decline fell short of economists' expectations of a steep 2.1 per cent drop. The September order rate was revised down sharply from a previously reported rise of 0.2 per cent.

Excluding defence orders, which fell sharply in October, durable goods orders rose a slight 0.5 per cent after a 3.5 per cent fall in September.

Orders for military capital goods fell 12.4 per cent in October after a 33.9 per cent jump in September. Non-defence capital goods, boosted by transportation orders, rose 3.2 per cent last month after a 4.7 per cent fall in September.

The department said shipments of durable goods last month fell by 1.7 per cent following September's 3.0 per cent fall. Unfilled orders, an indicator of future activity, rose by 0.5 per cent after a 0.2 per cent gain the previous month.

The industrial sector has lately been under pressure, and that was reflected in the order fall for non-transportation goods. Manufacturing employment has dropped for seven straight months, durable goods orders have declined for two consecutive months and industrial production has contracted sharply.

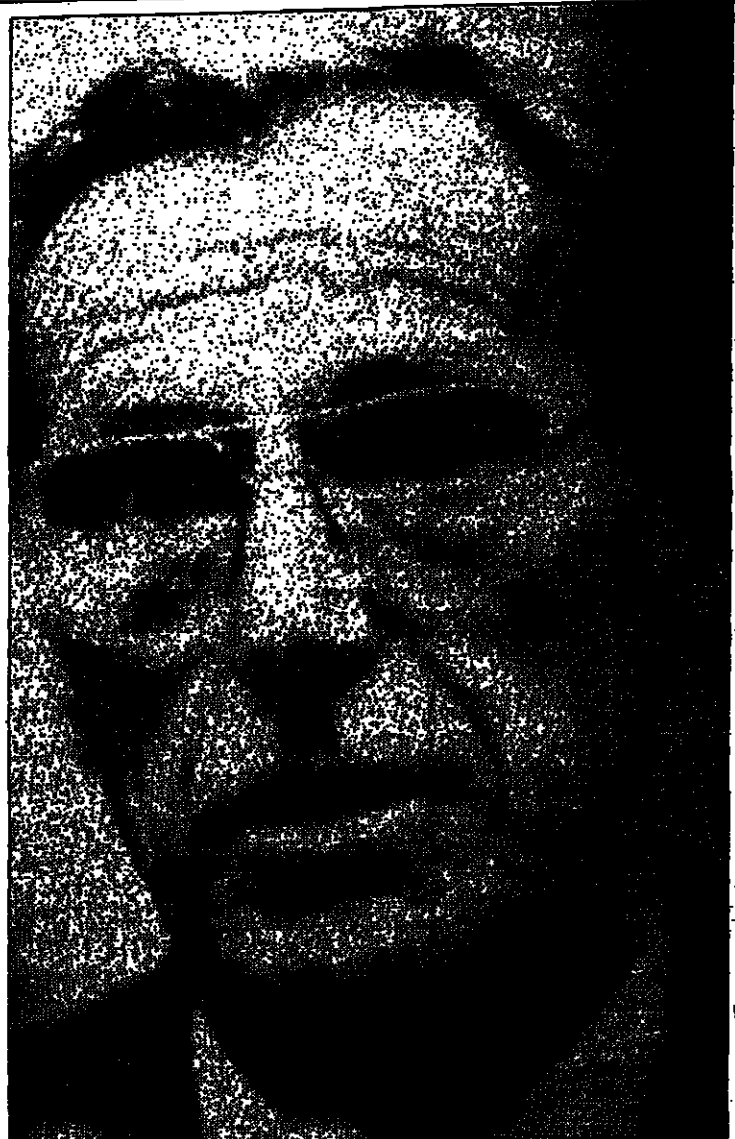
KUWAIT, Nov 22, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2790	0.2905
Sterling	0.4647	0.4667
DM	0.1629	0.1630
S.Fr	0.1824	0.1834
F.Fr	0.04767	0.04790
Liara	0.002208	0.002219
Japan	0.002621	0.002716
Bahdin	0.79018	0.79345
UAE Dh.	0.08109	0.08144
S.Riyal	0.07940	0.07974
G.Riyal	0.08180	0.08220
O.Riyal	0.77356	0.77706

KUWAIT, Nov 22, (Kuna): Following are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Fixed	Offered
1 month	8-1/16	8-9/16
3 months	8-5/16	8-9/16
6 months	8-5/16	8-9/16
1 year	8-5/16	8-9/16

Indian rupee	17.720
Sri Lankan rupee	7.560
Pakistani rupee	14.080
Bangladesh taka	9.160
US dollar	298.50
Pound sterling	468.50
UAE dirham	081.23
Deutsche mark	164.70
Japanese yen	002082



Right of silence

Lincoln Savings and Loan Association owner Charles Keating appears before the House Banking Committee. After being sworn in Keating informed the committee that he was exercising his constitutional prerogative and refused to testify. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bombay share

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Nov 22				Ind Rayon	87	86.50	86.50
ACC	307	310	320	Indrol	202.50	202.50	200
Alcan Chem	—	—	—	JK Syn	62	57.50	60
Air Nis	—	—	—	Kir Cum	130	132.50	132.50
Air Fab	—	—	—	KPS Pumps	68	67	68
Ashok Ley	92.50	92	93	L & T	79.50	80	79
Asia Palm	203.75	201.25	202.50	Lipton	96	96	96
Asia Corp	46	44	46	Mas Russel	165	162.50	166.25
Auto Corp	70	—	—	Mahindra	102	102.50	102.50
Nat Index	382.84	—	382.24	Mahindra	102	102.50	103
Bajaj Auto	328.75	325	328.75	Mas Share	16	15.85	16
Bar Rayon	750	730	750	Mico	740	745	760
Blow Plast	—	—	—	Milkfed	210	202.50	207.50
Bom Dye	144	143.50	144	Mofco	70	70	70
BK Bond	111.50	111	111.50	MRF Ltd	340	340	342.50
Burr Wel	95	90	95	Muk Iron	141	141.50	140.30
Canara	—	—	—	Nocil	1310	1300	1300
Can Eka	3340	3330	3340	Nat Org	48	47	48
Index for 21/11	—	—	—	Nippon	48	47	48
Can Sps	2600	2590	2600	Orkay	14	13.50	14.25
Colgate	187.50	186.25	185	Oswal Agro	63	63	60
Count Gr	—	1275	1300	Palco	21	20	21
DCM	12	12	13	Pfizer	72	70.50	71
Deep Fert	27	26.75	27	Ponds	181.25	178.75	182.50
Dunlop	68	66	68	Pran Auto	62	61.50	62
El Hotels	65	63	64	Ranbaxy	92.50	88.75	92.50
Escorts	77	76.50	77	Ray Wool	70	69.50	70
BSE Index	707.50	715.00	715.00	Rockit	190	187.50	192.50
Essar Sps	23	23	23.25	Reliance	82.50	81	82.50
Food Sps	105.50	103.75	105	Sesa Goa	57	56.50	61
Forbes	49	48	49.50	Shaw Wall	—	—	—
Gar Poly	52	51.50	51.50	Shri Cement	—	—	—
Hi Ind	101	100	100	Shri Fib	55	53	55.50
GNFC	34.75	34.25	36	Skens	74	73	75
Gramin	109	110	108.25	Spic	130	1290	1300
Index for 21/11	—	—	—	Stella	52.50	51.75	53
GS Sps	47.75	48	47.50	St Mills	495	500	500
GSFC	182.50	180	178.75	Tata Oil	67.50	67.50	70
Guj Alki	75.50	74	75	Tata Chem	118	117.50	117
Guj Heavy	120	118	118	Tata Pow	370	367.50	370
Hind Honda	17.50	17	17	Telco	1027.5	1025	1036.5
Hind Ciba	970	980	975	Thapp Agro	—	—	—
Hind Lever	145	145	145	—	111.25	110.25	110.25
Hind Motor	248	248	248	—	138.25	138.75	137.50
Hind Metal	148	146.25	146.25	—	21	20.25	21.25
Hind Paper	140	140	140	—	945	935	930
Hindalo	250.50	257.50	256.25	—	22.75	22.50	22.75
Hoechst	147	140.00	1470	—	—	—	—
Indrol	210	202.50	207.50	Zuari Agro	68	69	66
Ingersoll	65	65	64	—	—	—	—
ITC	46	47	46	—	—	—	—

Compiled by Kewat-India International Exchange Co.

EVENTS

Aliw '89, an evening of memorable songs

By Ruffy E. Sanchez
THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) presented the grand finale of Kapilku Night '89 in two categories, the Bagong Kampeon '89 and Sing-Alike singing competitions at the Al Andalus club of Holiday Inn with admirable and unforgettable performances.

It was a night with a multitude of songs popularised by Filipino singers and international figures in the music industry. Furthermore, the sing-alike contest brought to the fore that most of contestants can sing with perfect intonation to the tunes and showmanship of renowned local and international singers. The Filipinos by nature are music lovers — a peculiar trait which gave way to the evolution of music in the country from the naive indigenous to the emergence of modern Filipino Music (OPM).

San Buenaventura who was the champion of Bagong Kampeon rendered a powerful interpretation of Basil Valdez' "Ngayon at Kailanman". It was another honour for the

cager who also was the Flassik's Voice of the 90's. This song catapulted Basil as one of the most distinguished exponents of OPM among the Filipino entertainers.

Millete Domingo bagged the second place for the winning piece — Stephanie Mills' "Home". Millete, another lovely bet for the search of Hiyas ng Silangan '89 is the "Barbara Streisand of Kuwait". She exuded that style and high-pitched voice for the chanteuse Streisand.

The third presidential cup award went to Paul Randrup for his song which sounds like an operatic aria. Paul was the first prize winner for the month of September. A strong proof that given the right musical piece, a Filipino singer can interpret a song with gusto regardless of its genre.

Milano Mendez was an astounding winner for his credible interpretation of Rico J. Puno's "Bubot". Milano is a very popular singer in every sing-along Filipino restaurants in Kuwait. In fact, he shared a stellar billing when he had a

duet with Rico last year in Hatid-Saya sponsored by Phil Supreme. Rico was a remarkable talent who hit the music scene with his own version of one of movie themes of Barbara Streisand — "The Way We Were". With mass appeal peppered with humorous ditties, the song goes — "Alas! nang tayo's mag-sweetheart pa, namamasyal sa Luneta ng walang pera."

"One Day Soon," another hit during the fruitful years of Tom Jones was also another nostalgic number which placed Andy Gabriel second winner in the sing-alike division. TJ gave a new era to the music world during his time which Filipino singers were part then of the TJ mania. His music was heard anywhere, be it in the classy nightspot or the most affordable beer garden equipped with a jukebox blurring out some of TJ's hits.

Rey Lapuebla, the Rey Valera sound alike notched the third slot for his song "Pangkako". Valera has always been a favourite of music habitués who frequent his concert halls and other live

performances in Manila's sprawling entertainment joints.

Sarah Macarimbang, the event chairwoman and vice-president for Social and cultural affairs, in her opening remarks thanked all the friends, supporters and sponsors for their contribution to the grand success of Aliw '89. With Sarah on the heels, whatever project she has always spills success. Aliw '89 which is her most ambitious project so far became a springboard for all aspiring Filipino singers in Kuwait.

Rod Cerezo, popularly known as the "golden voice" of the Filipino community was also one of the energetic brains of the project and he deserved a sort of appreciation for his significant contribution to the success of the affair. Rod also unraveled his flair for singing and crooned the audience with his favourite love song. His ability to crack jokes drew laughter from the crowd as part of his endearing job is also his another enviable talent. Marlon Romero, his co-emcee also received warm plaudits from the viewers and organisers of the event.

Kapilku president, Manny Inserto, gave an inspiring speech which focused on the various activities that they offer to the members. Manny, who had been an instrument for all self-improvement courses generated skills and knowledge which would make a Filipino worker productive and efficient.

On the forthcoming Kapilku election, Manny has no plan of re-election but humbly responded that still he'll continue to be a staunch supporter of the association.

Rena Marin, the wife of the labour attache also stunned the audience with her Kuhl Ledesma's "A Long, Long Time Ago". She was highly admired for her versatility and professionalism for sharing a fine performance.

The newly designated Ambassador Dr Mauryag Tamano headed the list of distinguished guests together with his wife. He cited the aspect of Filipino lexicon by relating some borrowed words from the Arabs through the process of word infection.

Carmelo Calcedo, a new face in town also graced the affair and his way of

winning friends made him a popular figure. Endowed with generosity and kindness, he's always available for his voluntary support to the projects of any Filipino organisations in Kuwait. Carmelo is currently based in Kuwait as an overseas representative of remittances for Far East Bank and Trust Co. through the City International Exchange Co WLL. Any inquiries or remittance problems, Filipino workers can contact him to the following Tel Nos. 2448507, 2441845 and for Fahaleel residents, Tel Nos. 3910097 and 3928175.

Consul-General Olivia Palala was the chairman of the board of judges with the able support of piano virtuoso Manny Tupas of SAS Hotel, Rena Marin of the Philippine embassy, Albert Arriola of Hyatt Regency Palace, Luz Mesenas, the wife of Kuwait Times executive editor Clement Mesenas, Helen Inserto of Dollar Exchange Co., embassy attache Teddy de la Cruz, Engr Rolly Mendoza and Ruben Saldia of Safeway International.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Jahra Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salem Street
Tala Pharmacy
Al Hilali Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Joudar Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis Street
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Heba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahaleel and Almadhi
Burgan Pharmacy
Fahaleel, Al Sabah Souq
Farwaniya
Al Howaila Pharmacy
Al Mustawaf Street
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
The Fourth Area, Plot 48.

© All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22323) to Events Section or hand delivered daily except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Sharwaith. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phone-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1
9.00 The opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 2), starring Fuad Khaleel, Sahar Rami and Samera Sodqi
10.30 The Open University: cultural programme
10.40 Sabah Al Kher news and variety
10.45 Hwar Wa Nagham: local programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader
11.00 News Summary
11.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
11.30 Sports in a Week: sports programme, prepared and presented by sports programme control
11.35 Variety
11.40 Liqa Al Khamies: variety programme
11.50 Alice in Wonderland: cartoon serial (final part)
12.00 Cartoons
12.45 Night chemists, airlines and official

advertisements.
6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: religious programme (part 16)
7.00 Egypt's Information Message to the State of Kuwait
7.15 Al Forosiya: local programme
7.45 Kul Al Fonoon: Variety programme, prepared by Hasan Awara
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkour
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Tareq Min Al Sama: Arabic serial (final part)
10.45 Kabooos: Arabic feature film
12.30 Special variety
1.25 News Summary
1.30 The World Today via Satellite
2.00 Holy Quran and closedown
FRIDAY
9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.30 Sharlot Adventures: Cartoons serial
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Children's magazine: Children's programme

10.30 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdouda: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismail
11.00 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers and speeches
12.30 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 The Friday Break: Variety programme, prepared and presented by Varieties Control
3.00 Daqat Al Saa: Arabic serial (part 8)
4.00 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Sharawi
4.45 We are your friends: Local programme
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Television programmes in a week
6.30 Kuwait in a Week: News programme
7.15 The Family Programme: Local

programme
7.45 Silk Road: Cultural programme (part 7)
8.40 Hadeeth Al Osboo: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Min Al Alif Illa Al Ya: Variety cultural programme with guest star, Mustafa Ameen, presented by Tareq Hadeeb
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown
KTV 2
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Fantastic Max: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic illusions and training children how to use or deal with information
7.00 Wild America: Woodies and Hoodies
7.30 My Secret Identity: The Lost Weekend
Andrew and his school mate arrange to spend

their weekend camping in a nearby forest.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Treasure Island in the Outer Space
9.30 Just for the Record
10.00 Annie McGuire: "The Ferry"
10.30 Feature Film: "Go for it"
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite
FRIDAY
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Macron 1: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Walt Disney Movie "Gus"
"Gus" becomes a champion of a number of soccer contests.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away
8.45 The Yellow River: "The Cradle of Civilization"
9.30 The Weekend Programme
10.00 Roseanne. Roseanne is preoccupied with her friend who is suffering from a psychological case.
10.30 UNSUB "And the Dead Shall Rise to Condemn" Part 2
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'actualite



Punjabi Adabi Sangat

The monthly literary meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat was held last week at the residence of Rashid Mewati. The meeting was presided over by Hamid Kartarpuri. Dr Palwinder Singh Jathol read his article for criticism and several poets including Kidar Nath Kidar, Hamid Kartarpuri, Jagdish Singh Arora, Gurbaksh Singh Dogra, Rashid Mewati, Bhagwant Singh Dogra, Kishori Lal Sansoi and Jasbir Singh Dhiman recited their poems.

Picture shows (right to left) Dr Palwinder Singh Jathol, Jasbir Singh Dhiman and Hamid Kartarpuri.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Shock Troop
Salmiya
Moon Trap
Al Hamra
Ninja Warrior of Fire
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Janam Janam
Fahaleel Open
Insaaf Ki Manzil
Fahaleel
Awara
Al Jahra
Funny Farm
Granada
Daata
Salsabikhat
Dance of the Dwarfs
Jleeb
Waara
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

Granada
Willow
Salsabikhat
Witness
Jleeb
Dharam Yudh
Drive-In
Arabic film
FRIDAY
Al Andalus
Shock Troop
Salmiya
Moon Trap
Al Hamra
Ninja Warrior of Fire

WHAT'S ON

ARTS
Islamic Art
A SIX week — 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Aghar Al Islamiyyah on Sunday and Tuesday mornings from 10.00 — 12.00 noon. October 29 through December 6, 1989.
An eight week — eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Aghar Al Islamiyyah on Monday afternoons from 4.00 — 6.00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.
To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Arab Al Aghar during museum hours 8.30 am — 12.00 pm.
Watercolour Painting
LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. New 8 week course in Drawing & Painting for adults. For details tel: 5618847.
Seminar
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 — January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 — 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL
Shard Mele
AFTER successfully organising Deep-Dewail Salkar is now going to organise Shard Mele at Indian Arts Circle, Funtaines on 1st December 1989, at 10.00 am. There will be food stalls of delicious cuisines along with fun and games stalls for children. The big attraction will be two Grand Rattle Draws with a Game of Bingo. For entry passes and further information contact, Brij Vallabh - 2510146, or V.K. Agarwal - 5728621.
Yuletide Fayre
Do not miss the Yuletide Fayre being organised by St Paul's Church, Ahmadi from 2 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the British embassy compound. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, handicrafts and books as well as for cakes and preserves. There will be entertainment, including Santa Claus, for the children. Refreshments will be available.
Get-together
SOUTHERNERS welcome you once again to a family get-together at Le Mirage Hall at the Ramada Al Salam hotel on 22 December at 10 am.

Jazz Night
NOV 29: In response to overwhelming demand, once again Phil Thomas and the "High Spirits" will be extending their "Jazzical" repertoire for your enjoyment. From 8 pm to 12 midnight. Phone: 5640981.
Children's competition at IAC
THE result of the qualifying round of the children's competition held in Indian Arts Circle were already announced on 17-11-1989. The results are displayed in all schools and Indian Arts Circle. The finals will take place on 30-11-89, 15-12-89, 27-12-89, 28-12-89 at Indian Arts Circle. For more information please contact on telephone nos. 3904817 or 5622559.
General Body Meeting
WE are having our annual General Body Meeting on the morning of Friday, the 15th December. The meeting will be addressed by the Indian ambassador. The other main agenda of the meeting would be the lectures from two guest-speakers on the latest developments in the field of investments in India and the recent changes in law affecting NRIs. The guest speakers have been invited from India specially for this occasion. The meeting will be held in the Indian embassy auditorium and will be followed by lunch.

Carnival Night
The long waited Carnival Night will be held for the first time in Kuwait with popular bands "Top Ranks" and "Perfect Strangers" vibrating up the Carnival Spirit to bring out their best music ever. So all you folks look ahead for more details through this column for the precise date in the month of February, 1990.
Kuwait Goans
DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messiliah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.
To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.
Kuwait Cultural Centre
THE Kuwait Cultural Centre is opening a French Language course to be held on Saturdays and Mondays. For further detail please contact 5624393.
Exhibition
AN exhibition of superb replicas of trees and plants which uniquely couple lifelike fabric foliage with natural trunks and branches. Select for more than 20 different varieties of plants and trees for the size space. On display at the lower lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at: 2407029.
British Council
85th birthday tribute to Graham Greene — The British Council is holding an 85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene with an exhibit of a set of poster about his life and works during the whole month of November. On 25 Nov and Sunday, 26th Nov, film adaptations of "Brighton Rock" and "The Human Factor" will be shown at the Gallery starting at 5.00 pm. Admission is free but please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Hobby centre
New Courses in Jewellery making and design for adults.
For children there is Pottery starting next month for 6 weeks. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.
May Day! May Day!
THE Kuwait International Hotel is now embarrased with the size of the turkey they have obtained for their Thanksgiving dinner on the 23rd of November. It has arrived safe, sound and healthy but the 67 pounder measuring about two feet square refuses to enter the hotel's oven — because the oven doors are only 16 inch x 18 inch. They have less than 72 hrs to go and the kitchen brigade is in a state of panic. A brainstorming session is on and a solution is yet to be made. A dinner for two on Thanksgiving Night is offered to anybody who can suggest some way of cooking the bird intact!
Sinbad the Sailor
KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmadi, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza — Sinbad the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale at reasonable prices for the following performances: Gala Night 5th Dec at 7 pm, Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm. Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 NOW to avoid disappointment.
Kalpak's Symposium
THE Kalpak (Kerala Arts & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait) is organising a symposium on "The Impact of Literature on the Socio Cultural Developments" which will be held on 8.12.89 at 4 pm in the Indian embassy hall.
We are pleased to invite the Malayali society in Kuwait for their active participation.
Kalpak scholars declared for the two young talented artists will also be awarded on this occasion by Varghese G, first secretary of Embassy of India.
Musical Show
DEC 1: Musical entertainment show at Doha Entertainment City in "Starlight Theatre" with live rock 'n' roll, pop and reggie music from the most popular dynamic groups of Kuwait: "Top Ranks" and "Stepping Stones."

The highlights: live stage performance of five, break dance and solo dancing by Joe Misquitos, Tony, Anthony and their dancing groups. Including many surprises.
For details tinkle: Hilary Tel No. 4879455 ext 298 (4 pm to 10 pm); Tom 2546890 (after 8 pm); and Luiza 2661370.
For tickets contact: Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg., opp. Fire Station, Sharq, Tel: 2402188 or Dreamland Tailor, behind Sheraton Hotel, above Raja Store, 1st floor, shop No. 1.
Transport available, buses leaving at 2.30 pm from Kuwait City near the church and from Salmiya chapel.
Turkish Dinner
TURKISH community in co-operation with Turkish embassy organised an evening dinner on Thursday 23rd of November, 8.00 pm, in Al Ramada Hotel.
All Turkish nationals are invited for the occasion. For further information contact Dr Bakl Koyuncu. Tel: 4845682.
Araliya Restaurant Singing Contest
TO all of you who love singing!!!
DEC 1: Grand Final of the Autumn Sing-Along Contest at 6.30 pm.
DEC 3: Every Friday and Sunday 6.30 and 7.30 respectively, there will be the Christmas Carols Sing-Along Contest. Its grand final will be on Friday December 22, with surprise gifts. Rush register your name and song title on 2402540 or 2428284.
Ladies International League
UPCOMING EVENTS:
Newcomers meeting: Monday 27th November '89, from 9.30 am to 12 noon in the Blue Room at the Sheraton Hotel. There will be a very small charge at the door. For further details please call Ann 5316905.
SECOND GENERAL MEETING: Our programme will be a winter party and mini bazaar, in Ballroom A at the Sheraton Hotel 7 pm — 10 pm on Tuesday 5th December '89. There will be a small charge at the door. All ladies are welcome. Please no children. Raffle, door prizes as well as lots of other prizes too. For further details please call Ann 5316905 or Dianne 5335598.

four consecutive Thursdays starting from November 23, 1989 at various locations in Kuwait. For details contact 3919720, 3610088 and 4743955.
Star Nite
DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in and it's going to be a nite to celebrate Yuletide: Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5-8.30 pm and goes on from 9 pm until sumptuous buffet mid-night. A galore of prizes with Hamper lucky draws under \$55 sponsorship invitations with Shop No. 34 ex New Super Market and contact Tel: 5331940, 2413706 (res).
Daniella Children's Party
ALL Dances in Kuwait are invited for the annual children's party "Juletra" to be held at the Gazelle Club on Friday December 15 at 3 pm. Tickets to be purchased from Inge on 3727683 ext 207 or Winnie on 5733382 before December 10.
SPORTS
Open Badminton Tournament
IT is with great pleasure that we once again give this open invitation to all badminton players in Kuwait to take part in the annual Open Badminton Tournament.
The tournament will be held between Saturday, November 25th and Thursday November 30th, 1989 at the KOC Sports Centre Ahmadi.
Timings for each day's play will be as follows:
Saturday 25th, November through Wednesday 29th November (1900 hrs to 2200 hrs.)
PRAYERS
Fajr 4.55 am
Zuhr 11.34 am
Asr 2.31 pm
Maghreb 4.50 pm
Isha 6.11 pm
FRIDAY
Fajr 4.56 am
Friday Prayers 11.35 am
Asr 2.31 pm
Maghreb 4.50 pm
Isha 6.11 pm

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Happy birthday



Lamees Khalid celebrated her birthday on November 22. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Lamees goes to the New English School and likes music and drawing.



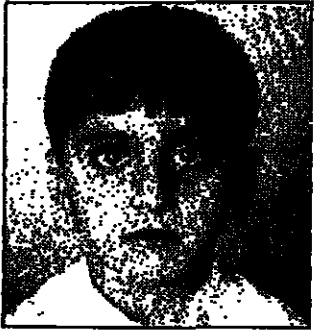
Bhaskar celebrated his 9th birthday on November 22. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Bhaskar goes to the United Indian School and likes collecting stamps.



Pragati Vasisht celebrates her 8th birthday today November 24. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Pragati goes to the United Indian School and roller skating and reading.



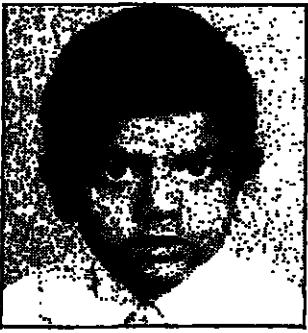
Abdullah Boushehri celebrates his 7th birthday on November 27. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Abdullah goes to Mohammed Al Shaiy School and likes drawing



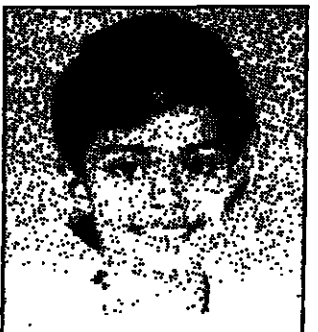
Sameer Khanna celebrates his birthday today. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Sameer goes to the Indian School and likes swimming, cycling



Blythe Rodrigues celebrates her 5th birthday on November 25. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Blythe goes to the New Indian School and likes dancing and playing.



Smita Shetty celebrates her 5th birthday today November 24. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Smita goes to the Indian School and likes drawing and watching cartoons.



Sally Furtado celebrates her 11th birthday today November 24. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Sally goes to the Indian School, Mangat and likes reading, and singing.



Nouman Mohyuddin celebrates his 4th birthday on November 26. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Nouman goes to a play-school and likes drawing and watching cartoons.

Just for laughs!

What happened to the plastic surgeon when he stood by the fire?
He melted.

Now you see it, now you don't — what is it?
A black cat walking over the zebra crossing.

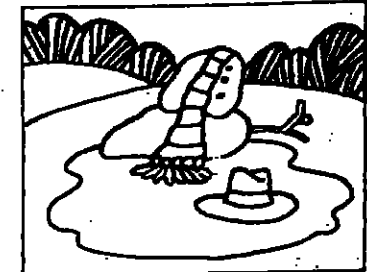
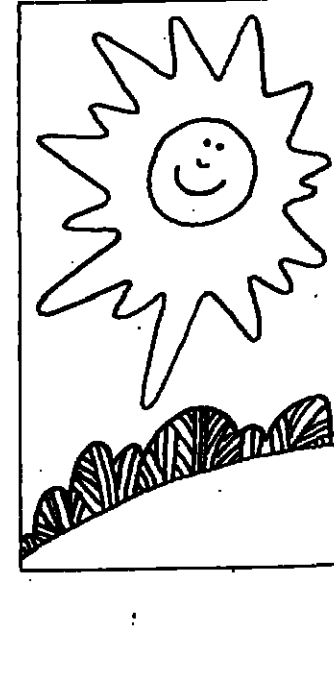
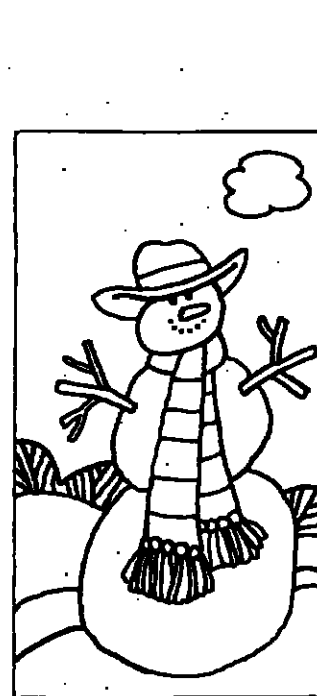
Why did the one-eyed chicken cross the road?
To get to the bird's eye shop.

How do you get two whales in a Mini?
Drive down the motorway. (Two whales to Wales!)

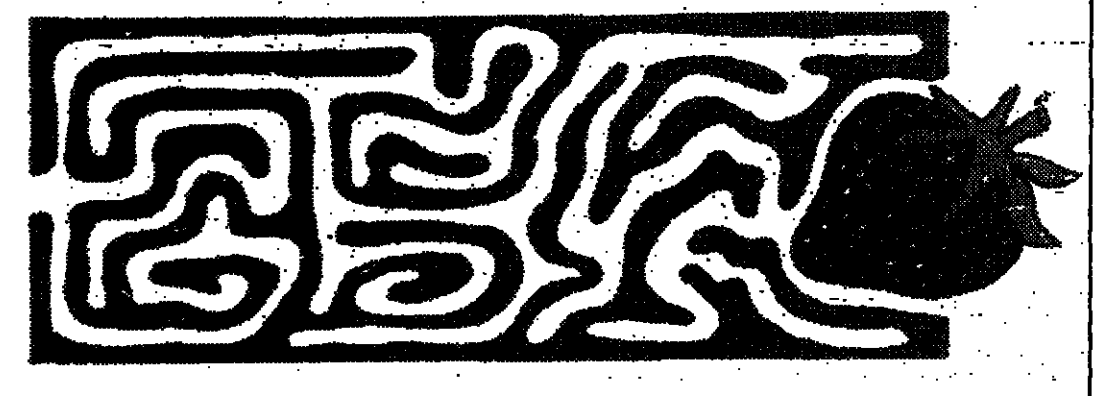
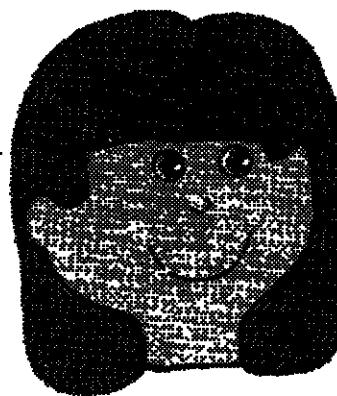
What can't you do if you put 250 melons in the fridge?
Shut the door.

What is more likely?

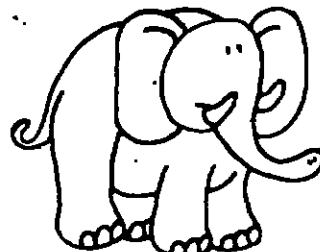
Look at the large pictures below. Colour the small picture that shows what is more likely to happen next.



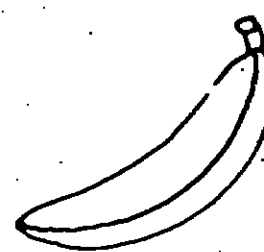
Can you lead Maha to her strawberry?



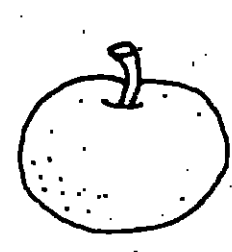
Colour the pictures below. Circle the picture which does not belong.



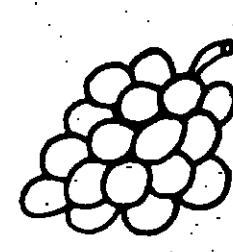
elephant



banana



apple



grapes

Poem column

Be good

Never forget to wipe your feet, or even brush your teeth. Always be polite to people, in the home, or on the street.

Never answer your parents back, or argue with your friend, always be kind and good, and life will repay you, no end.

J. Hodgson.

Rag dolly

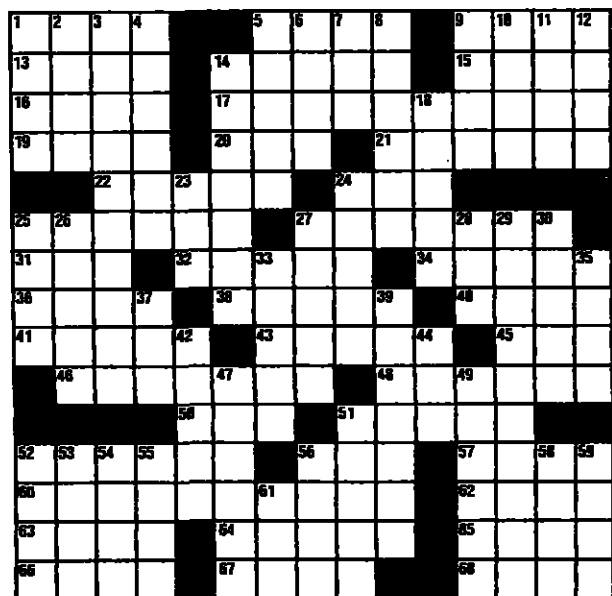
I had a red rag dolly. With eyes of pale blue glass, her hair was flaxen blond, her dress had buttons of brass.

I loved my old rag dolly, her name was Mary Lou, I took her up to bed at night, and my teddies too.

I put her in my dolls pram, and took her for a walk, I go with my little brother, down the town, or to the park.

J. Hodgson.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Scope
 - 5 Chiropractor's concern
 - 9 Louis XIV and XV
 - 13 Milk Comb. form
 - 14 Murrow's "You are —"
 - 15 Against
 - 16 Adjective for champagne
 - 17 Whirlybird
 - 19 Multi-axled truck
 - 20 Dutch commune
 - 21 Coaches
 - 22 Inventor Howe
 - 24 Container
 - 25 Lease signer
 - 27 Idea
 - 31 Final
 - 32 Mister, in Barcelona
 - 34 Like some seals
 - 36 Faction
 - 38 Describing Norse poetry
 - 40 Overindulge, in a way
 - 41 Speeds
 - 43 West Texas river
 - 45 Write
 - 46 Inclined
 - 48 Armadas
 - 50 "— Poetica"
 - 51 Brilliance
 - 52 One of the Gandhis
 - 56 Actor Wallach
 - 57 Former Asian kingdom
 - 60 Seaport of SE France
 - 62 Madras garb
 - 63 Amo, amas, —
 - 64 Depart
 - 65 Solar disk
- DOWN**
- 1 Ecclesiastical vestments
 - 2 Uncommon
 - 3 Worldwide in extent
 - 4 King of the Huns
 - 5 Outbuildings
 - 6 Distant
 - 7 Silkworm
 - 8 Jelly ingredient
 - 9 Engrossed
 - 10 Streetwise
 - 11 Roman road
 - 12 Knights
 - 14 Part of ETO
 - 18 Part of a pound
 - 23 Office holders
 - 24 — acid
 - 25 Examination
 - 26 Dueling swords
 - 27 Like a red spruce
 - 28 Consume
 - 29 Appense
 - 30 Plains Indian's home
 - 33 Nigerian natives
 - 35 Family rooms
 - 37 Musical syllable
 - 39 To the point
 - 42 Trap
 - 44 Gal of song
 - 47 Santa Fe and Chisholm
 - 49 Feudal tenant
 - 51 Student, in St. Lo
 - 52 Muslim leader
 - 53 Appellation
 - 54 Mild explosive
 - 55 Right and left endings
 - 56 Verve
 - 58 God of war
 - 59 Juliet enhancement
 - 61 Meadow

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SALEM ERAT ADAM
OLEIC MUSH LITIT
STARR INEE MEDE
SON ALTE BROTAN
ONES SRIS
PARKER THISTLES
AVERY KRANK IDA
NITA HEEDY HAUL
ALA HALVE TERCE
MAGNUMPI MISSES
ITSY CAMS
ARREST DOER SGT
MOIL ELAM ESTER
ETAL RITE INANE
NOLO SPAT DYNEIS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

HOLD UP THAT GUESS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 8 6
 ♥ 7 4 2
 ♦ Q 9 3
 ♣ K J 5

EAST
 ♠ A 7 3
 ♥ Q 6
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ 8 7 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ A K 5
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ Q 10 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Good declarer play is not the prerogative of those with a thorough knowledge of calculus. Following a few simple precepts will improve anyone's skill.

If 26 points are all that are required to make three no trump, declarer should have made his contract with an overtrick. South's sequence showed 19-20 points, so North had more than enough to raise to game.

West led the jack of hearts, East put up her queen and declarer won.

With two aces to force out before being able to enjoy nine tricks, declarer gazed vacantly into space for a brief while before electing to attack spades. Tough luck!

East took the ace and reverted to hearts, and declarer's remaining stopper was removed. West grabbed the ace of clubs at the first opportunity and was able to cash just enough hearts to defeat the contract one trick.

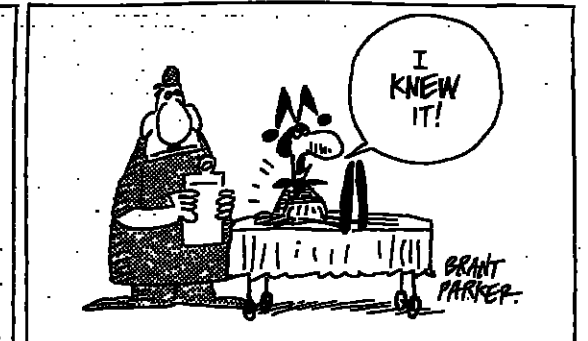
Now it is true that, had declarer chosen to force out the ace of clubs first, rather than the ace of spades, nine tricks would have been easy. In fact, South could have taken 11. But that was a sheer guess. Instead, a simple maneuver would have insured the contract.

Holdup plays are common enough when declarer holds only one stopper in the suit. But they can be just as effective with a double stopper. See what happens if declarer allows East to win the first trick, then takes the heart continuation.

Let's suppose, further, that declarer again makes the wrong guess and forces out the ace of spades. As the cards lie, East has no more hearts, so declarer can later drive out the ace of spades and hold his losers to one heart and the two aces. And if East does have a heart, the suit will break 4-3 and declarer loses only two hearts and the two aces.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be in a better mood and this will help you to get a move on. You will be able to do something that you enjoy doing. You should not take too much for granted. Be objective.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should not think that all you say is gospel. You will be better able to understand your children. Do not relax in your efforts to get a project under way. Be reasonable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

This is going to be an eventful day for you. You will be better able to cope with a difficult situation. Avoid spending money that you have not yet got. Be cautious.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to achieve closer harmony with your partner. You should not allow work to become your primary interest. Your private life is what counts in the end. Be responsive.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You should keep yourself abreast of innovations in your field. The Moon's better influence will help you to make up your mind. Make sure you do not forget to lock up. Be less resentful.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will be able to dispel some doubts. Let commonsense and practicality be your guide. Make sure you do not try to run before you can walk. Be lenient.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

There will be some conflicts between the demands of work and those of your private life, but you will be able to resolve them. You will be tempted to spend more than you can really afford.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

There is no time to lose if you want to achieve your objectives. You should try a more flexible approach to a persistent problem. Avoid trying to lay down the law. Be less complacent.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be able to make rapid progress with a project that means a lot to you. You have the wind in your sails but you must be sure to steer in the right direction. Do not start rumours nor listen to gossip.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You should permit yourself to be guided by commonsense and reason rather than by intuition. Do not allow your emotions to run away with you. Take extra care when driving. Be more patient.



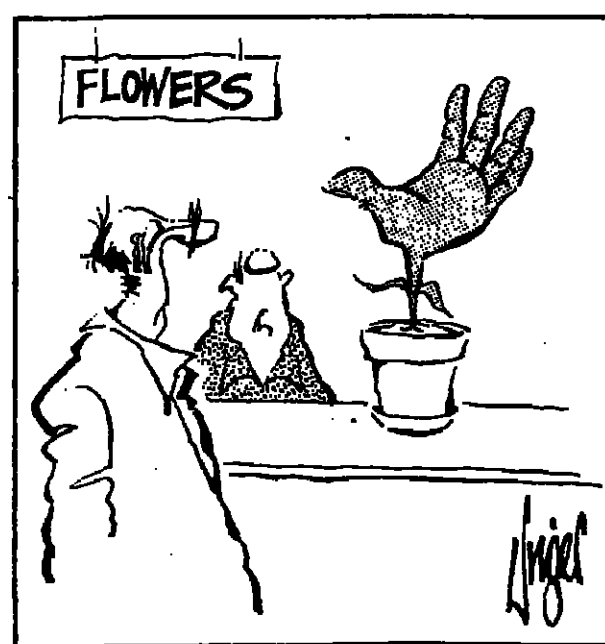
Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You should not allow some small setback to upset you unduly. Difficult though it might be to do so, keep a promise. Avoid any kind of gamble just now. Be generous.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You should listen carefully to what you are told. Make sure you do not do anything that might upset your partner. Do not allow yourself to be guided solely by mercenary considerations. Be resilient.



"It's a type of palm."

Dear Junior Readers,
Christmas is coming. you will probably have begun learning your Christmas Carols by now. Do you know how carol singing began?

The gates of the walled cities and towns of the Middle Ages, in England, were guarded by watchmen who were called waits. One of their duties was to sound the hours by playing a note or a simple tune on a wind instrument like an oboe. As many of the waits were musicians they gradually came to form

bands which played on special occasions. Later on, when cities had police forces, there was no need for watchmen or waits. But one of their duties had been to play songs for the Christmas festival in the streets. This is why carol singers are sometimes called waits.

They still call on houses before Christmas, but mostly they are children collecting money either for themselves or some good cause.

Manal



Freddy Frog

1. Freddy Frog likes to sit in the middle of the pond and catch bugs for dinner. He catches 19 every hour. How many bugs does he catch from 9 to 12 o'clock in the evening? —
2. While sitting on the lily pad, Freddy saw 5 ducks, 7 swans and 12 geese. How many birds did he see in all? —
3. A school of minnows came by for a visit. There were 47 minnows in the group. 18 of the minnows stayed to visit while the others swam on. How many minnows swam away? —
4. During the afternoon Freddy takes a nap. He sleeps from 1 o'clock to 4:30. How long does he sleep? —
5. Freddy likes to swim. He swims 4 times each morning. Each time he swims 7 laps. How many laps does he swim each morning? —
6. Freddy is watching the stars come out. He sees 12 above his pond. 17 to the right and 23 to the left. How many does he see in all? —
7. One afternoon Freddy decides to find out how many leaps it takes to get to his friend's house. It is 17 leaps from his house to the big rock. 16 leaps from the big rock to the moss covered tree trunk and 52 leaps from there to his friend's house. How many leaps did Freddy take? —

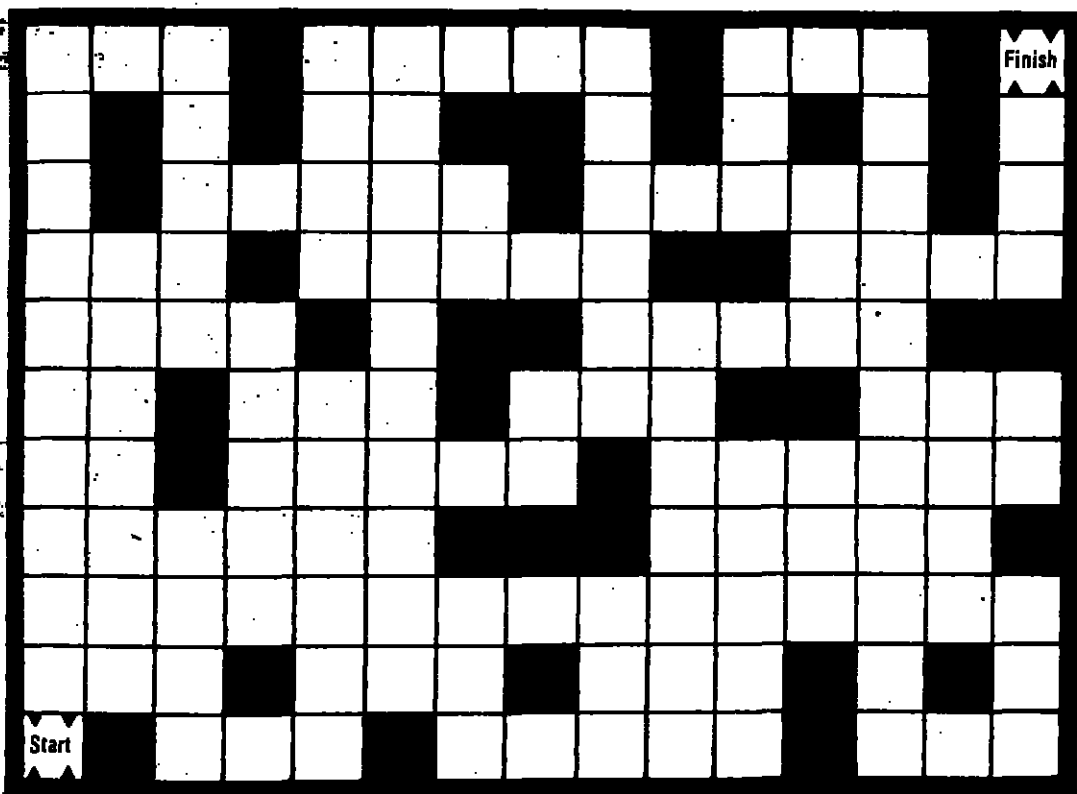


A visit to the Arab Times

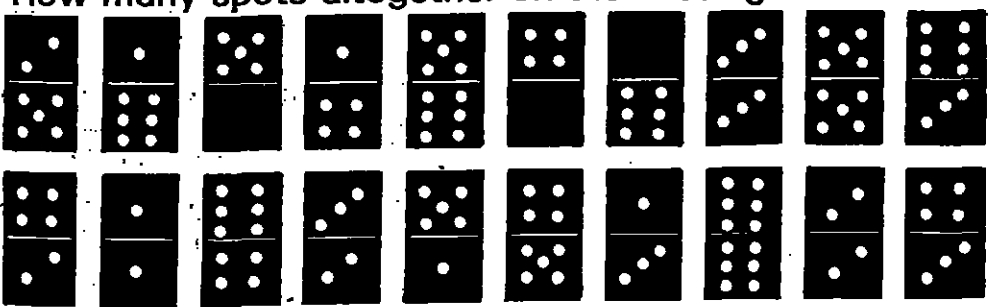
Last Tuesday, students of Junior 3 of the Sunshine School Kuwait, visited the Arab Times. They toured the Editorial Section, the Proofreading Section, the Typesetting Section and the Teleprinter Room (shown above)

Can you get the frog through the maze of pebbles?

Can you get from start to finish visiting every white square, moving either up, down or across, but not diagonally?

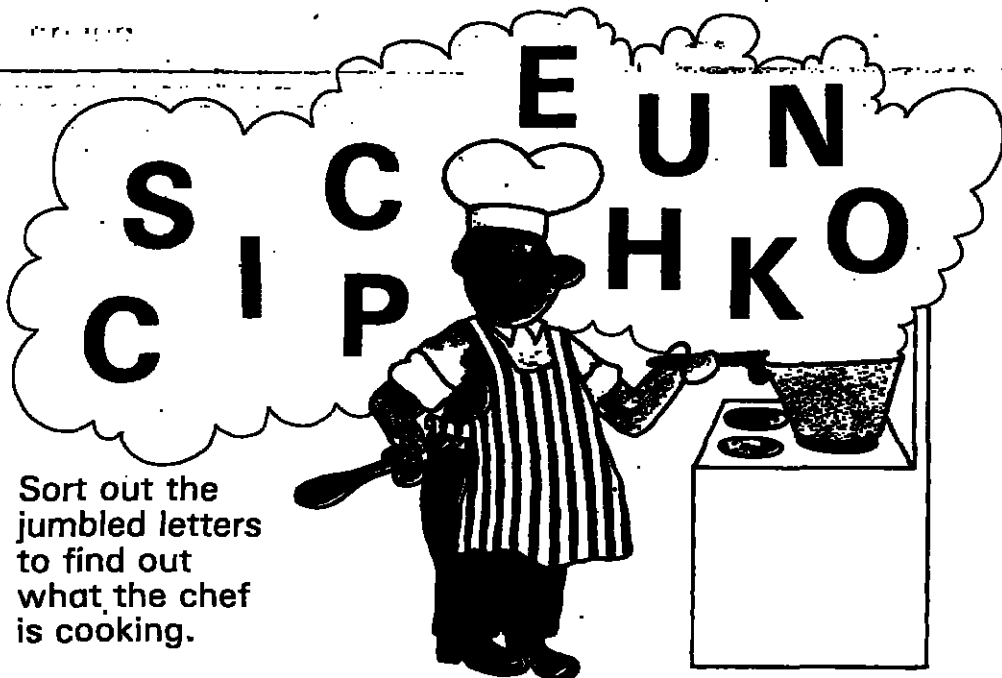
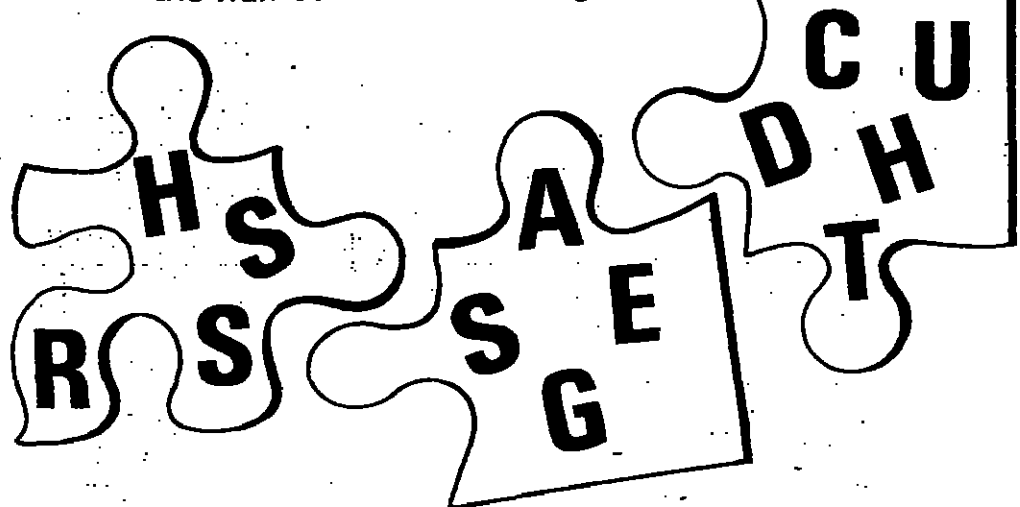


How many dominoes are missing?
How many spots altogether on the missing dominoes?



Scrambled up

Use the letters to make the names of two board games.



Sort out the jumbled letters to find out what the chef is cooking.

Use this code to find out what the message below says.

1=A 2=B 3=C 4=D 5=E 6=F 7=G 8=H 9=I
10=J 11=K 12=L 13=M 14=N 15=O 16=P 17=Q 18=R
19=S 20=T 21=U 22=V 23=W 24=X 25=Y 26=Z

25	15	21	1	18	5	9	14	22	9	20	5	4
20	15	1	6	1	14	3	25	4	18	5	19	19
16	1	18	20	25	15	14	19	1	20	21	18	4
14	9	7	8	20								

First and last

The last battle fought between England and America was fought at New Orleans in 1815. However, neither army knew that the two governments had signed a peace treaty two weeks before.

The English word 'palace' comes from the name of the Palatine Hill, one of the seven hills on which Rome was built and the one on which many Roman Emperors and powerful men built their palaces.

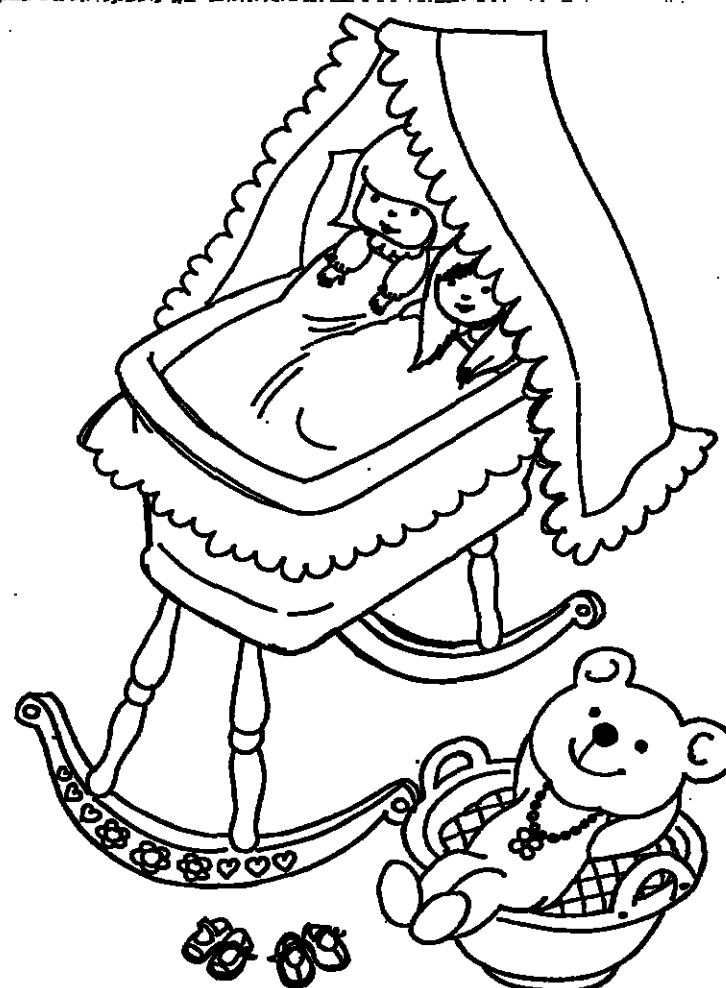
The first motor car sports club was opened in 1895 in France and was called the Automobile Club de France.

The first Olympic Games had only one event.

The first pressure cooker was designed in 1680 by a Frenchman, Denis Papin, who called his invention a 'New Digester or Engine for Softening bones.'

The first marathon runner collapsed and died at the end of his 37-kilometre run, which he had made in order to bring news to Athens of the victory over the Persians at the battle of Marathon and to warn the city that a Persian fleet was sailing down the coast to launch another attack. It was ironic that he died after bringing good news, for messengers carrying bad news were frequently put to death.

Colouring time



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

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Germs by mail for labs

ROCKVILLE, Maryland, (Reuters): In a red brick building just outside Washington, the Aids virus lives in suspended animation in a silver-coloured organisms that cause tetanus, typhus and cancer, along with those that produce beer, cheese, wine and mushrooms.

This is the American type culture collection, a mail-order service that stores and delivers any of 52,000 organisms to scientists and businesses around the world.

Robert Stevenson, a white-haired, bespectacled biologist who directs the collection, acknowledged that his operation can sound like something out of science fiction. He works to dispel that impression.

"This is not the green slime coming out of the kitchen sink to grab you," Stevenson said in an interview.

"We basically have about 20 to 25 per cent of our total holdings that have some negative significance," Stevenson said. "But the majority of stuff that we have is beneficial... without them the whole chain of life would cease to operate."

The non-profit, non-governmental collection was established in 1925 when scientists donated cultures — colonies of microscopic organisms — after performing experiments.

To preserve the organisms — Stevenson calls them "critters" — technicians freeze-dry them to a powder, then store them in finger-sized vials in nitrogen-cooled metal tanks in the collection's lower floor.

"Biohazard" symbols, which look like stylised, upside-down skulls, are plastered around the collection, but Stevenson said meticulous handling of the organisms makes working with them, or ordering them, safe.

The freezers all have alarm systems to keep the cultures at a constant temperature and there are duplicate stocks of some organisms at other locations.

There is round-the-clock surveillance of the freezers, but Stevenson declined to specify whether the surveillance was by video camera or by human patrols.

"If potential terrorists would be thinking of knocking the place off, the less they know, the better," he said.

Like any modern mail-order outfit, customers may order by phone or fax machine, paying up to \$150 for each vial of germs, viruses or other micro-organisms.

First-time customers must provide proof that they want the cultures for legitimate scientific or commercial ventures.

Some have tried to bypass the safeguards, Stevenson recalled. The owners of an ailing Canadian racehorse falsified lab documents and tried to get some lethal mail-order botulism culture to kill the horse and collect insurance. The Mounties picked them up at the post office, he said.

During the 1960s there were numerous requests for hallucinogenic mushroom spores after "the whole earth catalogue" publicised the collection. These requests were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"We wonder sometimes whether we should really advertise ourselves and try to become a household word," Stevenson said.

Each vial prepared for shipment contains two-tenths of a millilitre of dry material, equivalent to a small pinch of flour, said Frank Simone, associate director for operations.

Before each vial is shipped, it is heat-sealed in thick plastic, wrapped in absorbent material, put into a metal can, swathed in bubble-wrap plastic and put into a shoe-box sized cardboard carton.

The metal can and the carton carry the "biohazard" label warning: "Infectious substance, in case of damage or leakage immediately notify public authority."

In the United States it gives the name and telephone number of the federal centres for disease control in Atlanta.

On the return address label are Simone's name and a 24-hour number, just in case anything untoward happens to the package.

Nothing ever has, Simone said. One carton that was left out overnight in a driving rain was recovered with only the outer cardboard damaged, the metal can and its vial undisturbed.

If some contagious freeze-dried germs escaped from the vial the worst that would happen is they would die, Stevenson said.

New Age movement becomes popular in US

NEW YORK, (Reuters): Communing with the dead, out of body experiences and mystical healing techniques are all part of everyday life for followers of the US New Age movement.

Ask them about the meaning of existence and they will regale you with the virtues of self-affirmation and the fusion of mind, body and spirit.

And, to judge from a colourful recent gathering in New York, they will also try to ply you with any number of wares ranging from positive goal cards to organic pet food.

In just a few years this hybrid movement — part Eastern religious mysticism and part Western celebration of the self — has become hugely popular in the United States.

And it is big business.

The New Age masseurs, brain wave analysts and astrologers who turned up

to New York's "whole World Expo" last month were as deadly serious about their philosophy as they were about the need to sell, sell, sell.

Expo more closely resembled a trade fair than a showcase for alternative lifestyles. Thousands of people flock to success seminar leaders, vendors hawk healing circles and people offering to sketch what you looked like in a past incarnation.

Recipes for success come in all shapes and forms. One video cassette course had the theme "You were born rich."

"I've been in the personal affirmation business for five years," said Richard Eberle of Washington state, who was selling his "I can" container of positive goal cards.

At the infinity psychic referral service of San Francisco, self-

knowledge costs \$10 a shot and comes not in a cassette, but a camera.

"We can take an electro-magnetic energy field photo and it shows lines — up and down energy fields," said a woman called Mary. She explained that the lines identify qualities or areas that need to be improved.

Also from California was chiropractor William Welles, a man with a mission. "The Western toilets is a killer," he proclaimed.

Welles' goal is to promote a fortress of his own design to be used while sitting on the toilet. "Squatting," he says, "is nature's bowel cleaner, and using the footstool is the closest we can get to a natural position without going behind the tree."

Some of the thousands of visitors to expo were among the most unusual — or, as they say in New Age circles,

"attuned" — people there.

One visitors charted non-chalantly about a recent trip to Egypt, notable because she got there and back without a plane.

"Sure, I go back there all the time," she said. "Why, I work in a sacred temple welcoming people."

Items supposed to cure disease attracted the most controversy. The American Cancer Society had even set up a small table warning of potential dangers.

Exhibitors disagreed.

"We sell tools for vibrational healing," explained Terri Lee Mead of Mystic Miners, a Wyoming company. She said crystals and stones had helped her father add a few years to his life.

Another vendor attracted a whole queue of people with a red plastic box that supposedly emitted a healing light.

Moving on the past the holistic dentist you could find Eve's garden, described as a "politically correct, non-threatening place for women to buy sexual items." "After all," said founder Dell Williams, "women are empowered through self-love."

And so to the grandest of the New Agers — those claiming contact with alien beings who are ready to explain the mysteries of the universe to anyone interested.

Andre Pinsonneault of New York spoke for "Rael," described as a psychic Frenchman who had met extraterrestrials.

"Rael has told how mankind was created 25,000 years ago in a laboratory," said Pinsonneault, who was selling Rael's book for \$10.

He added that the true creators of earth lived in a galaxy one million miles

away and wanted humans to build an embassy in occupied Jerusalem.

Michael Luckman, director of the New York Centre for UFO Research, had a slightly different theory about aliens.

"I believe they are interdimensional, not from other planets, but through time and maybe a parallel universe. That's how they come in and out of our dimension at will."

Luckman is part of a campaign calling for congressional action on unidentified flying objects. He said the government had covered up evidence surrounding one that crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

Why did he come to Expo? "It's to meet with the part of a population that is especially attuned to this type of subject and related areas," he said.



Dev Anand with one of his recent discoveries, Tabbu.



Ghai's scoop — Amitabh came to launch 'Saudagar' with Dilip and Raj Kumar.



Mumtaz looks old as she poses with Shatru and her ex-actress sister Malika.



Sridevi

Dev plans golden jubilee

100 films as actor, 40 years as producer

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

PEOPLE mostly know Dev Anand as an actor who has lasted as long as 44 years. He was a big star in his heyday, he charmed two generations as a debonair hero, with magnetism and dynamism. He also donned various images with success, whether urban or rural, rich or poor, sophisticated or uncouth. Then he slowly accepted his age and began to play character roles which were still central.

It was for this that he had to keep producing and directing his own films, as no other industry producer would give him a leading role and he was himself not inclined to work for strangers after his heavy-weight reputation. Surprisingly people know him as a film-maker only over the last 10 to 15 years. But the fact is that Dev started his own company and became a producer in 1949, that is forty years ago and just three years after he had become an actor with "Hum Ek Hain" in 1946. By that time he had already played the hero in ten films and felt the urge to have his own set-up alongside, for making his own kind of films.

This famous banner called Navketan is completing its four decades this year and Dev has ambitious plans to celebrate the anniversary. Its first film was "Afsar" starring Dev with the heart-throb Suraiya, singer star of yester-years. And its latest release is "Aawaz" with Dev, Ekta, Aamir Khan, Aadiya and the one to go under production is "Sau Karod" with Dev, Fatima Sheikh and Raman Kapoor. In between the years, the concern produced 29 films and the latest will be its 30th. Moreover, Dev acted in 102 films, including his own and so the occasion also marks his centenary as an artiste.

Navketan was started as a platform for Chetan Anand, Dev's elder brother, to become a director. He did give some hits like "Taxi Driver" and "Fun-toosh" but also made odd-ball movies like "Aandhiyan" which flopped. Then he formed his own company Himalaya Films and worked in his own style, with Priya Rajwansh as heroine.

Meanwhile, Navketan gave chances to new directors, Guru Dutt in "Baazi" and Raj Khosla in "Kazla Pani". But it was younger brother Vijay Anand or

Goldie who took over the reins of direction and gave to the banner some of its finest hits as well as cinematic creations, crowned by the memorable achievement "Guide". In fact, Dev's mistake was to himself take over direction, which led to Navketan's decline.

As a producer, Dev Anand always chose unusual talents, discovered many stars and gave big breaks to less-known people. Mohan Seghal did small roles in "Afsar" etc. before becoming a big producer. Artistes like Johnny Walker, Rashid Khan, Krishan Dhawan (father of TV Star Dilip Dhawan), Sheela Ramani and his own would-be wife Kalpana Karik emerged from Navketan.

In later years, Dev boldly gave chances to newcomers like Zaheda, Zeena, Aman, padmini Kolhapure, Tina Munim, Christine O'Neal, Natasha, Richa Dutt, Tabbu, Bunty, Ailee Brar, Saaniya, Ekta and his own son Sunil Anand. He made use of the best music by Jaidev, S.D. Burman and classical exponent Ali Akbar Khan. Today's heroes like Mithun and Shatrughan once played supporting roles in his productions. Mumtaz now making an aged come-back did her peak work with Dev.

Looking to contents or progressive new themes, Navketan mostly remained on the formula track, of drama, crime, comedy and music. The main idea was to promote Dev's image as a lovable hero. Yet, they did try out different films, like "Guide", made in English — Hindi as a co-production, "Hum Dono" with Dev having a complex double role, light comedies like "Tere Ghar Ke Saamne" and musicals like "Isq Ishq Ishq". Topical problems were sometimes touched upon, like drug addiction in "Hare Ram", illegal expatriates in "Des Pardes", fake cults in "Swami Dada", student unrest in "Hum Navjawan".

As a centenary actor, Dev has created various images since his first film "Hum Ek Hain" based on inter-communal unity. Though he was mostly the best romantic guy around, yet also did Shaw's Prof. Higgins (in two films), a reckless gambler, a ruthless exploiter, a rough and tough labourer, a noble but uplifting raped woman, a tea plantation

slave — driver, a son trying to prove his father's innocence, a youth opposed to his brother having many children, a man opposing his father in order to fulfil his musical ambitions, a man pretending as the husband of his look-alike's wife, a rich man living among the poor, a clever tourist guide with sainthood forced on him, a journalist, a fake god-man and so on.

Dev could have retired now, as many people think. But he says: "I am all the time excited. I am temperamentally young. I relate to young minds. Film-making is exactly suited for that. So I must go on."

Show-man Ghai's show
Subhash Ghai scored a scoop of his own with "An Evening of Celebrations, in true tradition and style of Mukta Arts". The venue was Juhu's Centaur Hotel and the programme included "An inaugural show by Subhash Ghai", "Disc awards by H.M.V.", "Silver Jubilee of Ram Laxman", "Anniversary of Mukta Arts" and "Launching of 'Saudagar' with Dilip and Raj Kumar". We were requested to take our seats in time, so as not to miss (or disturb) the inaugural show.

In order to make it sound all the more pompous, the invitation card told us that it was for one person only and was non-transferable. Moreover, we were asked to present ourselves (to Ghai) in suit or national dress. It's a wonder they did not think of asking for the photos of guests and sticking them on to the cards. That would have been more safe.

God knows how many enemies Ghai made that night, instead of winning goodwill as a show-man. Because there was a big fuss over the checking of cards and several people were kept waiting at the door for a couple of hours. Even poor Chunky had to sneak in through the Centaur Kitchen, because perhaps he broke that rule of "bring this card with you". The chaps who were kept as doorkeepers pretended ignorance about the identity of any film people.

After all the hoopla, the "show" turned out to be like any other film function by late-night cocktails and dinner. It was the same boring round of speech-making, trophy-giving, clapper-giving and star introductions, with Ghai holding on to the mike

as if he had stuck his hand to the instrument. The much-trumpeted inaugural show turned out to be a female fashion parade. (What has that got to do with films?) Perhaps, Ghai is on a screen-testing hunt of models and aspirants. He even made Raakhee, Anil, Jackie and Madhuri stage a dance of "Ram Laxman". Even a cocktail called "Saudagar scotch" was offered to guests.

The H.M.V. people had their boring routine of giving multiple quadruple (or whatever) platinum discs for the sales of "Ram Laxman" cassettes. The film's silver jubilee and fifth anniversary of its banner brought forth some more back-patting. We were confidentially told that Ghai starts all good things on October 24. Only "Devas" with Amitabh was not started on that day and look how it ended, with bitterness all around.

Quotes from Sri Devi
After the big success of "Chandni", Sri Devi is at the top again, feeling very proud and confident. Her recent flops including "Nigahen" have been forgotten and she is again chased by everybody. So her talks also tend to be juicy. She has been called a child-woman, dumb doll, uncrowned queen, Miss India and what not. Better to get it in her own words, some choice quotable quotes: —

"I never ever thought that my position (number one) was in danger. I always work hard and remain devoted to God for the result."

"Since 'Nigahen' (Nagina - Part 2) did not do well, people ignored my performance. Some even said that I had done bad work for Part 2 as compared to Part 1. The reality is that I had worked a bit casually for 'Nagina', whereas for the second part 'Nigahen', I worked really hard, for a double success. In fact I had more faith in the second film. But the result was reverse."

"As opposed to the other heroine's three hits, my one 'Chandni' is enough". (P.S.: — The reference is to Madhuri Dixit).

"For 'Chandni' I take third credit after the director and the composer. And for 'Nigahen', I take the third credit also after the director and the music director."

Scrooge — an old Dickens tale

Gimmicks and comedy

By Shaun Seekins
Special to the Arab Times

IN a rehash of "A Christmas Carol" which retains the gimmicks but forgets the sentiment in favour of smart ass comedy, offers Bill Murray as Frank Cross, the impossibly hard-hearted president of a major television network who has worked himself up into a tyrannical frenzy preparing for a live, Christmas Eve presentation of the Dickens classic. In his single-minded quest for success, Frank manages to squash countless underlings beneath his feet, but then Frank is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, each of whom will show Frank the error of his ways. The ghosts appear in comic (and annoying) guises but the story is the same old Dickens tale that we all know by heart.

Spike Lee's third feature, *The Right Thing*, is his most accomplished film to date. It confirms his talent as a director, blending comedy and social comment with a sure visual flair.

The film takes place on the hottest day of the year in Brooklyn, New York. Lee plays the affable Mookie, the most popular guy on the block whose main fault is to neglect his girlfriend and young son.

Mookie works rather reluctantly as delivery boy for the local pizzeria run by Sal (Danny Aiello) and his two sons, the only whites in predominantly black area.

The day begins happily enough with local DJ Mister Senor Love Daddy cajoling the neighbourhood into consciousness and a variety of colourful characters begin to emerge onto the street.

But as the temperature rises, tempers begin to boil over and seemingly trivial — indeed comic — incidents take on an increasingly threatening feel.

A proposed boycott of the pizzeria because there are no black heroes on the walls combined with an argument about the volume of a ghetto-blasters eventually ignite into real violence.

The almost imperceptible escalation of tension is illuminated through a varied cast of characters, from the sad old pacifist Da Mayor (Ossie Davis) to the blanky angry Radio Raheem (Bill Nunn).

Lee handles his large cast skillfully and the performances are almost without exception excellent. As always with Lee music is used extensively and effectively throughout. The climax is both shocking and sadening, avoiding any overt politicising in favour of a more individual, even ambiguous, approach.

You can resist *Weekend At Bernie's*, but you will not win. This slapstick farce aims well below the intelligence level of the average viewer, but it hits its mark so accurately and with such manic frenzy that it will not be denied. Teenagers are going to bowl over this one; adults with youthful senses of humour will find themselves laughing, probably with some embarrassment.

Larry (Andrew McCarthy) and Richard (Jonathan Silverman) are two lowly employees at a huge New York insurance company who have stumbled across a mistake that will save their boss, Bernie (Terry Kiser), \$2 million. Bernie professes great gratitude and invites the ambitious young men out to his posh beach house for a wild weekend party, but once they have left his presence we learn that Bernie himself has skimmed off the \$2 million. He is in cahoots with a gangster, and he instructs the gangster's goon to bump off Larry and Richard before they can expose the scam.

Unfortunately for Bernie, the gangster has had enough of his carelessness, and he orders his henchmen to kill Bernie instead. They succeed, just as Larry and Richard arrive at the beach house, ready for weekend of wine, women and corporate



Susan Blakely in 'My Mom's a Werewolf'



Bill Murray in 'Scrooged'.

highjinks. They find the body, but Larry, the schemer of the two, decides that it would be a shame to cancel their party just because their host has expired. They therefore think of a plan to convince the other guests that Bernie is still alive, posing the corpse in increasingly cruel guises, while the hitmen return to repeatedly "kill" the already-dead Bernie.

McCarthy and Silverman make a great team and they embrace the warped tone of the movie with youthful gusto.

Cross Of Fire is a new best-seller recounting the tensions created when a Ku Klux Klan leader is accused of abusing a woman. The new series of Dallas is also available together with many new programmes made for American TV.

The latest in a rash of American remakes of French films of the 70s, *Cousins*, taken from Jean Charles Tacchella's "Cousin, Cousine" is probably the most successful translation. Like the recent *Cher* success *Moonstruck*, it is a fairy tale romance from the land where true love conquers all.

Larry (Ted Danson) is a former real estate broker who has "dropped out" of the rat race and now teaches ballroom dancing to senior citizens. He lives in a small walk-up apartment with his rather scatty makeup-artist wife Tish (Sean Young) and his son by a first marriage, Mitch (Keith Coogan).

Isabella Rossellini plays Maria, a rather detached legal secretary who meets Larry at a family wedding when their respective spouses go off for a "test drive" together; Tish and Maria's husband Tom (William B. Davis), a compulsive workaholic, have been fooling around on the back seat of his BMW.

When a suspicious Larry and Maria meet to talk over the possibility of their mates' mutual infidelity, they quickly find themselves drawn together into a

situation where their friendly relationship turns into romantic, idealised but unconsummated love.

The chemistry certainly works between Danson and Rossellini. His regular good guy looks are evident and she is radiant (looking amazingly like her mother Ingrid Bergman in certain shots) and they seem to display genuine respect and affection for each other. Young and Petersen are also outstanding as their selfish ego-driven spouses.

1969 is an ambulant, nostalgia-soaked portrait of the American homefront during the climax of the Vietnam era, a sporadically amusing document written and directed by Ernest Thompson.

Two families are examined. Robert Downey Jr and Kiefer Sutherland play college pals, one from each clan, each trying to lie low on campus until the war goes away.

Crack In The Mirror is a cautionary tale about the effects of drug abuse in the States.

Scott (Robby Benson) and Vanessa (Tawny Kitaen) live a comfortable yuppie life together in New York although money is clearly a problem as they try to maintain their high-flying lifestyle. While professing disdain of the coke habit, Scott unwisely falls in with his drug dealing friend Butchie (Kevin Gray) when a major money making opportunity presents itself.

Butchie needs to make himself scarce because he's fallen out with the local Mafia kingpin, Charlie Buick (Danny Aiello) so he persuades Scott to do a bit of "temping" in his absence. Before you can say "crack kills" Scott is raking in the cash, but his family's disintegration starts when he samples his own merchandise.

By courtesy of the Video Club, Salmiya 5724372, Video Nana, Salmiya and VFI Fintas Towers or Farwaniya.

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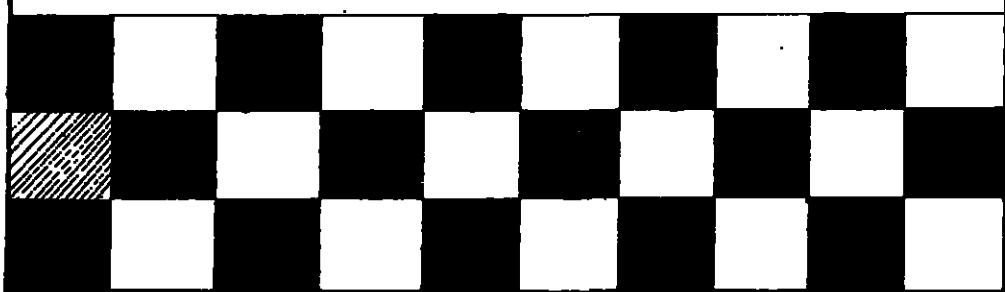
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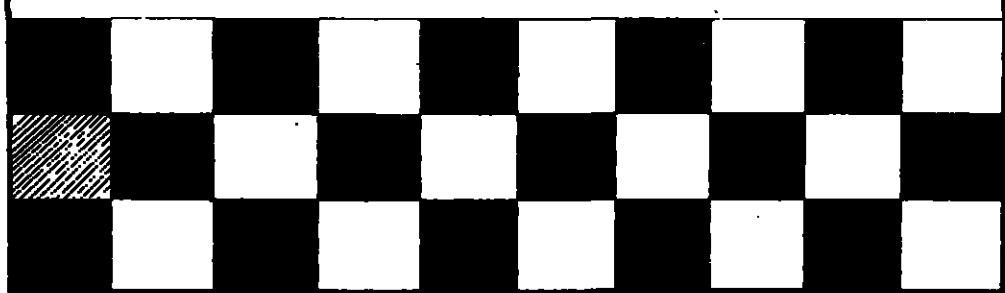
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America's Cup case still not decided

Kiwis win right to appeal

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (Reuters): New Zealand's Mercury Bay Boating Club yesterday won the right to go to New York state's highest court in its case accusing the San Diego Yacht Club of foul play in winning yachting's premier trophy last year.

The appellate division of a lower court, which in September reversed a judge's decision disqualifying San Diego, said in a one-line statement that the New Zealand club could take its case to the New York State Court of Appeals in Albany because "questions of law have arisen."

Jack Soper, a spokesman for a US firm representing Mercury Bay, told Reuters that the appeal would be filed on December 1.

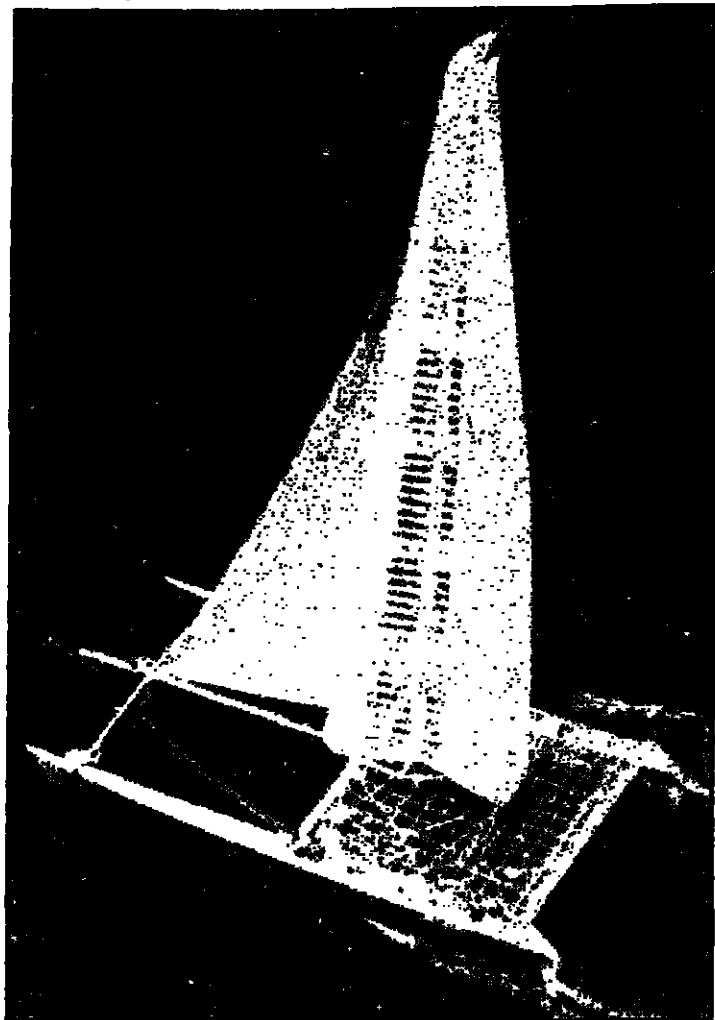
Soper said Mercury Bay intended to maintain its policy of seeking "an accelerated court process" to try to resolve the bitter dispute as soon as possible.

"This saves a step in the process," he said of the appellate division's decision. "It saves us the need to go to the court of appeals ourselves if they had turned down our application for leave to appeal the verdict."

Tom Mitchell, a spokesman for the America's Cup organising committee which is handling the defence of the trophy, also stressed the need to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

"We're extremely confident that we'll win the appeal — we have no doubt about that — so the thing now is to expedite the case," Mitchell said in San Diego.

A couple of weeks back Mercury Bay told the whole world they would expedite the case, so now we expect them to keep their word. If they expedite the case —



The catamaran used by San Diego in the race against Mercury Bay.

and we would join them in that — we feel we could have an event in San Diego in May of 1992."

All competitors signed a protocol in June agreeing that

the next races would take place in a new class of boat 75 feet (22.9 metres) long, but the regatta would not be held until 24 months after the court wrangling had

ended.

Mitchell said he was confident the court proceedings would be ended by March or April.

"Now we can look ahead and see there is an end to this. This is the very last court case. There is no appeal after this," he said.

Serving notice that the patience of other challengers was wearing thin, Raul Giardini of Italy sent an appeal to the office of the US attorney general in New York last month on behalf of 10 syndicates urging a swift end to the court battle.

Mercury Bay was outraged on September 19 when the appellate division of the New York State Supreme Court — which despite its title is the state's lowest court — ruled that supreme court justice Carmen Ciparick erred in March in disqualifying San Diego for sailing a catamaran against New Zealand's sloop.

The five-judge appellate panel, in a 4-1 decision, reinstated San Diego as the winner, saying that the deed of gift which sets out the rules for the trophy imposed no such design constraints on San Diego as the defender of the Cup.

Michael Fay, owner of the New Zealand yacht which lost the series 2-0 off San Diego last September to the catamaran skippered by Dennis Conner, immediately denounced the verdict as "a disgrace."

The dispute arose in 1987 after Conner regained the trophy he had lost to Australia four years earlier. Fay broke with tradition by using a strict interpretation of the rules to issue a challenge in a high-tech, 132-foot sloop (40.2 metre) sloop far bigger than the

12-metres used in the past 30 years.

San Diego then cited the rules in deciding to defend the trophy in a catamaran, which skins over the waves rather than ploughing through the water like a sloop.

San Diego Yacht Club lawyers estimate it will be at least three months before the court issues a final decision. They expressed concern that the yacht club would have to scrap plans for hosting the next America's Cup in 1992 if the ruling isn't made within the next five months.

"It has already been agreed with the challengers that the next event cannot be held sooner than 24 months after the end of litigation," said Tom Ehnman, vice-president of the America's Cup organising committee.

"If we do not have a decision from the court of appeals before May 1990, we will probably have to delay the anticipated May 1992 match. In the meantime, we will continue planning and preparing for America's Cup XXVIII in San Diego."

Gene Trepte, chairman of the America's Cup organising committee's defense committee, echoed Ehnman's disappointment at yesterday's decision allowing a final appeal.

"It makes life even more difficult for our fledgling defence syndicates," Trepte said.

"Non-American syndicates will continue to design, build and train, knowing that they will be challengers in either San Diego or New Zealand. It is more difficult for American groups (to make steady progress when they are not 100 per cent certain they will be defending for the United States."

ATHLETICS

Slaney suing Nike over endorsements

EUGENE, ORE., Nov 22, (Reuters): Former US athletics star Mary Decker Slaney is suing Nike Inc. A shoe firm with which she was under contract, for more than \$300,000, for continuing to sell her posters, her lawyer said yesterday.

The suit filed on Friday in Lane County circuit court in Eugene alleged that Nike invaded her privacy "by appropriating her name and likeness to its own use without her consent" after their promotional contract expired at the end of last year.

The sale of the posters placed her "in a false light before the public as continuing to be associated with Nike and to endorse its athletic products," the suit said.

Doug Stamm, a spokesman for the company based in Beaverton, Oregon, said that Nike officials had not seen a copy of the suit but that they had discussed the issue with Slaney's attorney, William Honsoweth.

"We are a little bit surprised that the lawsuit has been filed," Stamm said. "At this point until I get this suit I am not really able to comment on it."

Slaney, who has been under a promotional contract for the company from 1983 to 1988, charges that the unauthorised use of her endorsement has prevented her from arranging similar contracts with other manufacturers.

The suit seeks \$200,000 in general damages, a royalty of 15 cents on each Slaney poster Nike has sold in 1989, and about eight months' salary at the rate of \$155,000 per year which amounts to about \$103,000.

De Bie and Ladislao triumph

Rahman shines in Dubai windsurfing event

THE Merit Winter Series of the Messiah Beach Windsurfing Club started this week with the first race on Friday.

The conditions were good with a calm sea and a Force 3 wind which gradually dropped away as the day went on.

In the first of the three races of the day, the course was set at a standard triangle. The leader for the first half of the course was Bob Green ploughing through the chop on his Mistral Competition board and a 7.7m sail. But he could not hold off Wouly de Bie and Bob Ward, both on Ultra Cats with 8.0m and 7.5m lightweight sails respectively. The final placings were:

1. Wouly de Bie (sponsored by Qabazard Marine)
2. Bob Green
3. Bob Ward

The second race results had to be deleted due to a misunderstanding of the course by race officials. The final race of the day was a slalom, in and out, starting with a Le Mans style beach start. But with so many boards crammed into the small beach, it was free for all both at the start and the jibe marks.

Ladislao Pascoe, on his newly acquired Mistral Competition and 6.8m, was the clear winner. Pascoe was so confident that he sailed most of the last leg of the course with one leg kicking the air. The final placings were:

1. Ladislao Pascoe
2. Wouly de Bie
3. Dietmar Kampmann

● Kuwait's Abdul Rahman Bahman took part in the Gulf Windsurfing Championship, organised by Dubai's Jebel Ali Sailing Club, recently. Rahman finished the event third overall.

A total of 30 competitors took part in the event, which saw Ray Corbett take first place in the open class and Andrew

Mower win Division 1. A total of four races were held to decide the champions with only three best scores counting towards the final result.

In the first race, which was held in light to moderate winds, nearly everyone used big sails — above 8 sq metres. The wind picked up as the race progressed and only competitors using light sails managed to finish the event.

In the second race the wind was 10-15 knots at the start and reached 25 knots during the latter part of the day. Rahman did well in the third race to finish third as the light winds at the start reached nearly 15-20 knots during the event.

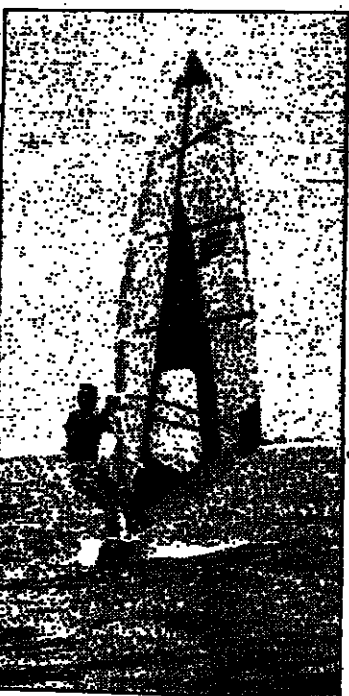
The last race saw winds of nearly 20 knots at the start and these increased to 25 knots as the race progressed. Rahman was lying second but dropped to fourth when the wind picked up and finished in that position. But by this time he had earned enough points to take third place overall.

Abdul Rahman was impressed by 14-year-old Glyn Hughes who took second place but performed remarkably well during the whole event.

All the top three placers were using Fanatic windsurfing equipment. Rahman used a Fanatic Ultra Cat & ART sails. He was sponsored by Qabazard Marine Equipment, who gave him full support for these races. He was accompanied by his team manager G. Gummertsbach.

Due to Rahman's excellent performance over the whole year, particularly in Dubai, Qabazard is holding a special reception in his honour. Qabazard will also give Bob Ward the "Windsurfer of the Year 1989" award at the same reception. Different factors, performances in competitions being only one of them, have been considered for this honour.

The reception will be held on Sunday, Nov 26, at 7.30 pm at the Qabazard Salmiyah Windsurfing Showroom.



De Bie in action.

Olympic hero's medals auctioned

LONDON, Nov 22, (AP): Harold Abrahams put values above victory, medals above medals and made millions of people cry with joy and sadness in his story of an Olympic hero's triumph over religious intolerance.

But in 90 seconds, the prizes from Abrahams' athletic career were snapped up in an auction yesterday.

Medals, cups and documents belonging to the runner immortalised in the Oscar-winning film "Chariots of Fire" were sold to one of the world's leading businessmen.

Mohamed Al Fayed, the Egyptian-born owner of a London-based empire that includes Harrod's department store and the Ritz Hotel in Paris, paid £25,300 (£39,720) for some 30 mementos that Abrahams treasured for a lifetime but which, his family said, could no longer gather dust in a desk drawer.

Al Fayed said he bought the collection out of genuine respect for one of sport's great legends.

"I was inspired by a man who put principle before winning," Al Fayed said. "I was inspired by a man who was the victim of severe ... prejudice and yet by the strength of his own mortality triumphed and won a gold medal for his country."

The gold medal won by Abrahams in the 100 metres at the 1924 Paris Olympics was not among the mementos sold. It was stolen from his home some 50 years after his victory, and never recovered.

"I think it (the gold medal) was the only one he was ever really attached to," said Abrahams' adopted daughter, Sue Pottle, who attended the auction at Christie's. "I don't think today's sale of the other items would have worried him. He sold some of his silver cups for scrap years ago."

In an interview with the Times of London, however, a close friend of Abrahams' said the runner would never have wanted to part with his prizes.

Harold was passionate about his running and his medals meant a lot to him," said Sir Arthur Gold, chairman of the British Olympic Association. "After knowing the man I

would think it highly unlikely he would have contemplated the sale."

Abrahams was the first European and the only Englishman to win the Olympic 100 and was known at the time as "the fastest man on earth."

He died in 1978 at age 77, but his struggle against religious prejudice to win Olympic gold was portrayed by Ben Cross in the 1981 movie.

Al Fayed was one of the main financial backers of the film, providing \$4 million. His son, Dodi Fayed, was the executive producer.

Al Fayed said he bought the items to keep them in Britain and that they would be placed on display at Harrod's sports section, known as "Olympic Way."

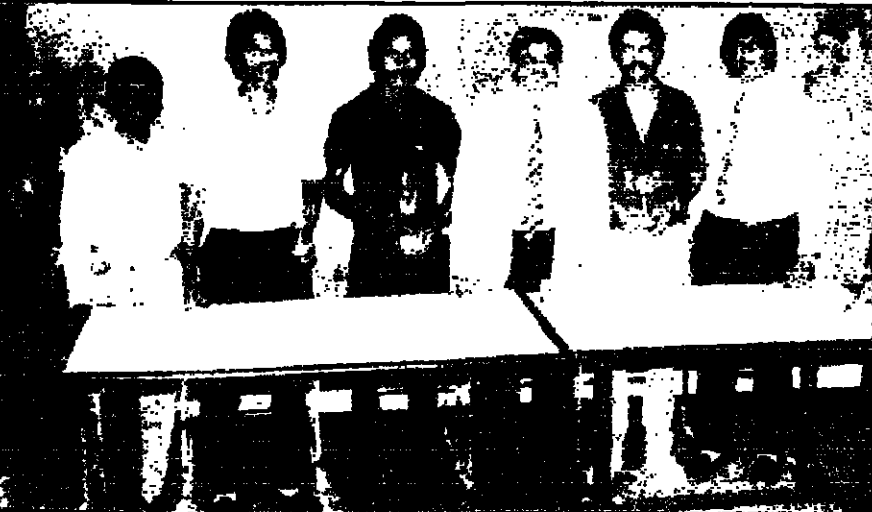
"Mr Al Fayed considered it his patriotic duty to buy the items," Harrod's spokesman Michael Cole said. "He has lived here for almost 30 years, his children are British and he feels great loyalty and devotion to this country. He values the story of Harold Abrahams as well as Eric Liddell."

Mitchell wins MVP award

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (Reuters): San Francisco Giants home run specialist Kevin Mitchell easily won the National League Most Valuable Player award yesterday with his team-mate Will Clark distant second.

Mitchell, whose 47 home runs were the most in the Major League last season, was named first on 20 of the 24 ballots cast by the Baseball Writers Association of America for a total of 75 points.

Clark was second with 11 first place ballots and 225 points while Pedro Guerrero of the St. Louis Cardinals took the other number one ballot and third place on 190 points. Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs was fourth on 157 points and the New York Mets' Howard Johnson fifth with 153.



Nazareth wins carom tournament

Johnnie Nazareth (third left) won the carom tournament organised by the People's Trust Club on Friday. Maxy (second right) was the first runner-up and Lancy (second left) the third runner-up. Thirty-six persons took part in the tournament which was witnessed by 85 spectators. Prizes to the winners were distributed by the Indian Embassy's First



Secretary Abdul Khaliq (third left). On the extreme right is People's Club's president Terence Viegas, and on the extreme left is legal adviser Franklin D Costa. Right: The two finalists in action in the last game.

Aguilera surprises Mancini

Edberg edges Cane for final

TURIN, Italy, Nov 22, (Agencies): Stefan Edberg and Brad Gilbert, warming up for the forthcoming New York Masters, defeated Paolo Cane and Yannick Noah respectively in the opener of a two-day tennis exhibition in this north Italian city last night.

Edberg, a Swede ranked third in the world, was to play Gilbert, an American, in this evening's final. Noah, a talented Frenchman, was to face the Italian Cane for third place.

Edberg broke Cane's serve in each set to sail to a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Cane, Italy's top ranking player, was much criticised last week for playing a tournament in South Africa, which cost him eligibility for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Gilbert, a last-minute substitute for West German star Boris Becker, struggled to defeat Noah 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

In the second set, Gilbert, a 28-year-old Californian, survived three match points before taking the tie break 13-11 and sailing to victory in the third and decisive set.

In the opening day of the New York Masters on Nov 28 Edberg is set to play young American Andre Agassi while Gilbert will be pitted against Becker.

Italian organizers reported that Becker gave up the Turin exhibition following a light thigh



Edberg: to meet Gilbert

strain suffered a few days ago.

Becker is being treated by doctors at home and may be fit by the start of the prestigious New York Tournament.

About 8,000 fans watched last

night's games at Turin's indoor Sports Palace.

In San Diego John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors last night for his second exhibition win in two nights over his longtime

rival. McEnroe used his only service break of the match to clinch the victory before 6,821 fans at the San Diego sports arena in a charity event. In a Monday night match in Los Angeles, McEnroe recorded a 6-4 triumph.

Connors had four break points in the third game of the final set with a chance to go ahead, but McEnroe eventually prevailed in the game that lasted 18 points, the longest in the match.

In Itapirica, Brazil, Spain's Juan Aguilera scored a stunning 7-5-6-7-5 victory over top-seeded Alberto Mancini of Argentina in the first round of the \$305,000 Itapirica Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Mancini was not the only seed to fall in the intense heat of the Brazilian tropics. American Jim Courier, number eight, and Thomas Muster of Austria, six, were also eliminated.

Venezuelan Nicolas Pereira beat Courier 6-2 6-4 and Brazilian Cassio Motta defeated Muster 7-6 6-2 after taking the tiebreak 10-8.

Second-seeded Jay Berger of the United States had no trouble beating Brazilian Danilo Marcelino 6-1 6-1 in less than an hour, while Peruvian Jaime Yzaga, the defending champion, also cruised through with a 6-3-7-6 victory over Jean Fleuriat of

France. "I was convinced that I could offer Mancini a tough time. He is better on clay and I knew that in this heat anything can happen," Aguilera said.

And in New York, Zina Garrison, winner of three tournaments this year, attained a career high yesterday when she was listed No. 4 in the latest Virginia Slims rankings.

Garrison, a 26-year-old from Houston, was No. 5 at the end of 1983 and climbed back to No. 5 two months ago after beating Chris Evert en route to the semifinals of the US Open. She was beaten in the second round of last week's Virginia Slims championships by Gabriela Sabatini.

Also reaching a career high was Monica Seles, a 15-year-old Yugoslav, with a ferocious forehand. Seles, who turned pro last February, when she was ranked 86th, now is No. 6.

Seles upset Evert to win the Virginia Slims of Houston in April, and took Martina Navratilova to three sets before losing in the Virginia Slims quarterfinals.

Steffi Graf, winner of the Virginia Slims Championships, continues to rank No. 1, followed by Navratilova, Sabatini, Garrison, Arantxa Sanchez, Seles, Conchita Martinez, Helena Sukova, Manuela Maleeva and Evert, who is now retired.

NCAA strikes \$1 billion deal

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, Nov 22 (AP): The National Collegiate Athletic Association's annual basketball tournament became a billion-dollar event yesterday when the CBS television network agreed to a new seven-year contract.

NCAA head Dick Schultz said the deal of the rights to televise the tournament for \$1 billion triggers "a new era in sports television."

Schultz said negotiations with the two major US television networks "continued right up almost to the last minute," before the deal was struck in a midtown Kansas City hotel.

The billion-dollar pact includes the rights to a number of other NCAA championships in such sports as volleyball, track and gymnastics, as well as expanded coverage of women's basketball.

King helps Bullets shoot down Bucks

LANDOVER, Maryland, Nov 22, (AP): Bernard King scored seven points in the final 2:38 and seldom-used Mel Turpin blocked three shots in the fourth quarter to help the Washington Bullets snap a five-game losing streak with a 97-91 NBA victory over the Milwaukee Bucks last night.

Turpin, who had played in only three of the Bullets' first 11 games, entered the game with 1:40 left in the third quarter and played until the final minute. His block of a shot by Jack Sikma with 1:30 remaining enabled the Bullets to put together a 7-0 run that erased an 87-84 deficit. Fred Roberts led the Bucks

with 26 points, matching the career high he established earlier this month. Ricky Pierce had 21 points for Milwaukee and Malone led Washington with 20.

Heat 88, Hornets 87. Miami's Billy Thompson scored 14 of his season-high 25 points after having dental bridge-work knocked out of his mouth.

Thompson got hot after a third-quarter collision with Charlotte rookie J.R. Reid's elbow. He returned in the fourth period to help build the heat's lead to 12 and then held off Charlotte's late charge that cut the lead to 88-84.

Hawks 103, Pistons 96. Moses Malone and John Bar- tie each hit seven of eight first-

half shots as Atlanta jumped to a big lead and snapped Detroit's regular-season home winning streak at 25 games.

Pacers 119, Celtics 111.

Chuck Person scored 18 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter as Indiana snapped a three-game losing streak. Indiana, which had been averaging 20 turnovers a game, committed just six.

Knicks 114, Rockets 106.

Patrick Ewing outplayed Akeem Olajuwon in the first meeting of the season between two of the NBA's top centres, scoring 33 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

The Knicks outscored the rockets 12-4 in overtime, with

Ewing getting eight points. Olajuwon, who fouled out at 1:04 of overtime, had 23 points — none in the extra session — and 11 rebounds.

Spurs 107, Suns 98.

Rookie centre David Robinson scored 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead San Antonio.

Results		
Washington	100	Cleveland 92
Miami	98	Charlotte 87
Atlanta	103	Detroit 96
Indiana	119	Houston 111
New York	114	Houston 106
Utah	103	Minnesota 101
San Antonio	107	Phoenix 98
Denver	111	Dallas 95
Seattle	114	New Jersey 84
Orlando	115	Sacramento 113
Portland	121	Chicago 110



An action shot of the match. (Reuters wirephoto)

All Blacks win again

BELFAST, Nov 22, (Reuters): Ulster went the way of all 11 other Welsh and Irish teams to face the New Zealand All Blacks by bowing 21-3 yesterday and now only the Barbarians can prevent the tourists returning home with an unbeaten record.

The Irish provincial champions looked to be in with a chance as they held the New Zealanders to a 6-0 half-time lead with a strong wind at their backs to look forward to after the break.

When fly half Peter Russell cut the deficit with a penalty five minutes after the interval, Ulster optimism seemed justified.

But the All Blacks silenced the capacity 18,500 Belfast crowd with a ruthless burst of 15 points in just eight minutes.

Fly half Franco Botica started the spree with his third penalty goal, then number eight Zinzan Brooke barged over for his side's first try.

Botica converted and did so again when wing Va'eta Tuigamala profited from a defensive mistake to

sprint 50 yards for try number two. Far from caving in, however, Ulster began to apply pressure, and for once the All Blacks began to look ragged.

They conceded no fewer than 24 penalties, and forwards Gary Whetton and Steve McDowell were lucky to stay on after twice being warned for foul play.

But for all their frantic attacks, Ulster could not find a way through and the All Blacks extended their long unbeaten run to 45 matches over the past three years.

That is a measure of the task facing the Barbarians in a match which brings the curtain down on the tour at Twickenham next Saturday.

New Zealand coach Alex Wyllie said referee Ian Halliwell of England was largely to blame for the high penalty count and sporadic fighting which littered the match.

"There was certainly more fighting than anyone would like to have seen, but I think a lot of it was born out of frustration at some of the referee's decisions," Wyllie said.

Jahangir beats Kenyon

Jansher edges Nancarrow

STUTTGART, West Germany, Nov 22, (Reuters): Pakistan's six-times former world squash champion Jahangir Khan overcame an erratic challenge from Englishman Phil Kenyon yesterday to enter the quarterfinals of the Stuttgart Open.

Jahangir, who has suffered a string of injuries in recent months, was still below his best form and needed 55 minutes to beat Kenyon 15-1 15-11 17-16.

England's number two squandered a chance to put Jahangir's suspect fitness to a more serious test when he failed to convert three chances to clinch the third game.

The top seed thus took a further step towards another meeting with second-seeded compatriot Jansher Khan, who lifted his world crown in Kuala Lumpur last month.

Jansher survived a brilliant early spell from Australian Tristan Nancarrow and recovered from 11-8 down in the fourth game to win his second-round match 13-15 15-8 15-4 15-13 in exactly one hour.

In this evening's quarterfinals Jansher was to play New Zealander Ross Norman, the 1986 world champion, while Jahangir faced Paul Gregory of England, who reached the last eight as a qualifier by beating compatriot Del Harris in four games.

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0.950 KD! JANNÉ telephone shelf - 11 pcs. available

1.000 KD! JANNÉ shelf/plant stand - 23 pcs. available

1.750 KD! Pleated blinds in many colours - 68 pcs. available

1.800 KD! per sq. m! LINO self adhesive tiles - 160 sq. mts. available

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1.850 KD! ORN wastebasket, metallic - 25 pcs. available

1.900 KD! BRIGG, galvanized box - 67 pcs. available

1.900 KD! HARTE rug rag, 60x90 cm - 470 pcs. only!

1.900 KD! Black picture frame, 40x50 cm - last pcs. available

1.950 KD! JOLLE bathroom mirror, many colours - 120 pcs. available

2.250 KD! Metal storage cube, expandable - 400 pcs. available

2.500 KD! Children's chair, blue, yellow - 60 pcs. available

2.900 KD! Shower curtain with rings - 800 pcs. available

2.900 KD! Hat/coat rack - 54 pcs. available

3.000 KD! BRIGG shelf/shoe rack - 13 pcs. available

3.900 KD! Folding chair in white or black - 1000 pcs. available

4.500 KD! Wooden garden flower box - 100 pcs. available

6.000 KD! 20 pcs dinner set - last 300 sets left!

6.000 KD! VIKI, folding chair, blue, yellow - 40 pcs. available

8.000 KD! CENSOR corner unit with 4 shelves - 45 pcs. available

9.000 KD! CALYPSO floor lamp, red - 90 pcs. available

9.000 KD! RODD mirror, 60x105 cm, - 23 pcs. available

10.000 KD! Swivel desk chair in many colours - 1000 pcs. available

11.000 KD! Triangular coffee table, selected colours - last pcs. available

12.000 KD! LACK coffee table, selected colours - 160 pcs. available

12.000 KD! ROLLE music/flower bench, 42x70 cm - 18 pcs. available

12.000 KD! HOL folding table - 80 pcs. available

15.000 KD! TRISS round mirror, pine frame - 18 pcs. available

15.000 KD! ERIK desk, white - 16 pcs. available

19.000 KD! KABYSS folding bed with mattress - 35 pcs. available

19.000 KD! SKAGEN carpet, 200x300 cm - 20 pcs. available

19.000 KD! ERKEN garden chair with cushion - 27 pcs. available

19.000 KD! ROLLE music/flower bench, 42x135 cm - 14 pcs. available

21.000 KD! CENTRIK round table with ALEX legs - 125 pcs. available

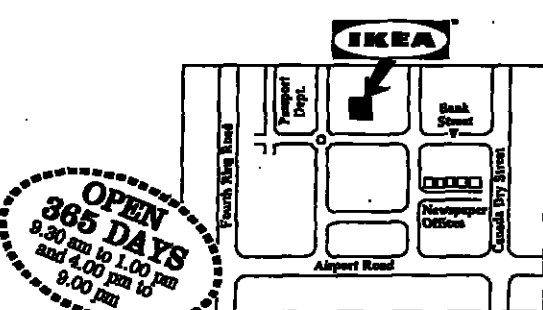
21.000 KD! BROMMA dining table, brown - 68 pcs. available

39.000 KD! GUIDE shelving unit - 13 pcs. available

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Napoli lose

NAPLES, Italy, Nov 22, (Reuters): Row Zealand's Wynon Rufer scored in the dying seconds to give Werder Bremen a 3-2 victory over UEFA Cup holders Napoli in their third-round first-leg match on Wednesday.

English soccer

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): Results of English soccer matches played yesterday: League Cup third round, third replay.

Swindon 2 Bolton 1
— after extra time (90 minutes 1-1). Swindon home to Southampton in the fourth round.

Division Two

Blackburn 2 Middlesbrough 4

Football Association (FA) Cup first round replays

Bury 1 Rotherham 2
(Rotherham away to Walsall in the second round)

Chester 3 MacClesfield 2
(Chester away to Blackpool)

Hayes 0 Peterborough 1
(Peterborough away to Swansea)

Reading 1 Bristol Rovers 1
— after extra time (90 mins 0-0). Eventual winners home to Welling or Gillingham.

Dutch star

MILAN, Italy, Nov 22, (AP): Relations reportedly have grown tense between European soccer champion A.C. Milan and its injured long-time Dutch star Ruud Gullit. Sources said yesterday that Gullit, who has been sidelined with a right knee injury since June, wants the club to sign an immediate, three-year contract extension that would pay him 15 billion lire (\$10.7 million). But the sources said the club first wants guarantees about the complete physical recovery of the player.

Appeal rejected

GENEVA, Nov 22, (Reuters): The European Football Union (UEFA) rejected an appeal by Feyenoord Rotterdam against a 25,000 Swiss franc (\$15,800) fine for rowdy behaviour by their fans.

Golfing great

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, Nov 22, (AP): Golfing great Jack Nicklaus, who turns 50 this January, said yesterday he will join the Senior Tour this coming season — a move certain to sharpen competition on the popular circuit.

Hearns convicted

PONTIAC, Michigan, Nov 22, (AP): Henry Hearns, the youngest brother of boxer Thomas Hearns, was convicted of second-degree murder yesterday for shooting his fiancée two nights before his brother fought a draw against Sugar Ray Leonard.

Antwerp win

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 22, (Reuters): A 10th minute goal by Hans-Peter Lehnhoff gave Antwerp a narrow 1-0 victory over VfB Stuttgart in a UEFA Cup third round first leg tie yesterday.

RESULTS

RESULTS of the Moushah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Nov 18:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Marcia Griffiths
3. Nula Khalaf & Rima Ayyad

Results of the Regency Bridge Club game held on Nov 19:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwaite
2. Sherin Bayoumi & Ahmed Hamed
3. Basma Mousall & Ahmed Tawil

RESULTS of the Moushah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Nov 20:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Rabiya Abboudi
3. Lila Koudi & Nawal Taiti

E/W

1. Nida Khalaf & Subandana Oskay
2. Nula Khalaf & Marcia Griffiths
3. Nula Kassim & Rima Ayyad

RESULTS of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played on Nov 22:

1. Khouda Tawil & Camille Sawabini
2. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwaite
3. Greta Chakroun & Elime & Kerna

Westminster System-17 will hold their 2nd end of the season tournament tomorrow at the Regency Palace at 3.00 pm.

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Tuesday:

1. Dr. Zaid & Qattan
2. Salma Ali & Zannari
3. Mrs Rita & Hamed

E/W

1. Burkle & Tomar
2. Dr Reddy & Latala
3. Ravi & Mukherjee

20 powerboats expected to take part

Mishal ready for Jordan race



Mishal (left) and Ananda: hope to do well



Mishal Al Jarallah during a practice run in his boat.

THE Kouroos boat has now arrived in Jordan ready to compete in the Jordan Offshore Powerboat Race which takes place in Aqaba tomorrow. Kouroos, a fragrance for men from Yves Saint Laurent, is backing the distinctive blue boat and its pilot, Kuwait-born Mishal Al Jarallah for the full 1989/90 powerboating season.

The Kouroos team are busy making final preparations for the race, which will see the cream of Kuwait and Dubai racers competing for top honours against strong Jordanian competition, which is expected to include entries from the royal family.

Last year, King Hussein's two sons, Prince Abdullah and Prince Feisal competed, and attracted the interest of world media and press. Mishal Al Jarallah took first place in the outboard section of the race and is aiming to match or better his performance this year.

He and throttleman Ananda Fernando will be making their second race under Kouroos colours after a successful 1988/89 season which included a win in Kuwait, and a series of top five placings in Dubai.

The Kouroos boat features 2 F-16 fighter cockpits for the driver and throttleman to sit behind and was manufactured by Cougar. It is powered by 3 Mercury 2.4 engines, with electronic fuel injection systems, and at 32ft long, should do well in the sometimes rough waters of Aqaba.

The race will consist of five laps at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba, covering a total distance of around 70 nautical miles.

"I am expecting at least eighteen to twenty boats to compete," said organiser Simon Khoury, "and we will see a tough fight for first place."

The Kouroos team is wary of making any predictions about the race, other than that they will do their best to bring as high a result as possible. "Basically there are so many factors which contribute to success. The boat is ready, and the team is ready, but there is no way of knowing the exact race conditions until the race starts. Let's just say that, inshallah we will do well," said Mishal.

Marsh breaks toe ahead of Test

PERTH, Australia, Nov 22, (Reuters): Australian opener Geoff Marsh is a doubtful starter for the one-off cricket Test against New Zealand after his toe was broken by a ball from fast bowler Carl Rackemann today.

Marsh was rushed to hospital after he missed a Rackemann yorker in net practice. X-rays showed the big toe on his left foot was broken and West Australian Tom Moody was called up as cover for Australia's vice-captain.

A final decision on Marsh's fitness is expected to be made tomorrow, the eve of the Test in Perth.

New Zealand were waiting to gauge the health of number three batsman Andrew Jones before naming their side. Jones dislocated a finger 10 days ago and had stitches removed from the injury on Monday.

"The injury has been improving from day to day but a decision whether he plays will probably be made on Thursday," New Zealand manager Gerald Bailey said after watching Jones bat in the nets yesterday.

New Zealand pace bowler Willie Watson has influenza which almost guarantees a Test

debut for 19-year-old Chris Cairns. He has bowled with real fire and lift in the short tour of Australia.

Australia's Terry Alderman is still trying to shake off a rib muscle strain but is confident he will play in the Test, the first since the medium-pace's 41 wickets helped set up a 4-0 thrashing of England in the Ashes series.

England will play their four-day match against the Windward Islands in St Lucia on their cricket tour of the West Indies starting in January.

The venue was agreed between the West Indies Cricket Board of Control and the English Test and County Cricket Board when the tour itinerary was formally approved yesterday.

The match will be played on February 8-11, with the four-day match against the Leeward Islands switched to February 2-5 in St Kitts.

The dates of England's two matches in Guyana have also been put back by a day. The one-day international, the fourth in the series, will now be played on March 7, with the second Test starting on March 10.

Franklyn Stephenson and Ezra Moseley, Barbadian cricketers who played on rebel tours to South Africa in 1983 and 1984, have both been reinstated to West Indies cricket.

The secretary of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, Steve Camacho, said yesterday he had received signed copies of letters, endorsing the WICBC's stipulations, from the two players.

The two all-rounders have been drafted into the Barbados trials squad for the 1990 Caribbean tournament.

The WICBC secretary said he had not yet received a reply from Guyanese Faoud Bacchus but is now in possession of Colin Croft's application for reinstatement.

South Africa's former Test all-rounder Eddie Barlow has been appointed Gloucestershire's first cricket manager, the English county club announced today.

Barlow, who starts the job next February, was capped 50 times by South Africa before the republic was isolated from international sport because of its apartheid policy.

100 soccer fans feared drowned

KINSHASA, Nov 22, (Reuters): Up to 100 people were feared drowned after a river boat carrying a soccer team and their supporters sank in Zaire, witnesses told reporters today.

So far 50 bodies have been recovered from the Fimi river 300 km (200 miles) northeast of the capital, Kinshasa, after the accident on Saturday.

The team from Kudu was on its way to the town of Nioki for a local match. Rescuers said they were investigating reports that the boat was overloaded.

Rivers are the main transport routes in this central African country.

E. German cyclists

LONDON, Nov 22, (Reuters): East German cyclists will take part in the 1,150-mile (1,843-km) tour of Britain for the first time next May, organiser Brian Elliott said yesterday.

Polish soccer

WARSAW, Nov 22, (Reuters): Polish soccer authorities announced plans yesterday to ease restrictions on transfers to the West and give clubs greater autonomy.

Srikanth pledges positive approach

FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Nov 22, (Reuters): Indian captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth, buoyed by his team's performance at the end of the drawn first cricket Test against Pakistan, intends to pursue even the slightest chance of winning the second Test starting tomorrow.

India, in jeopardy of following on at one stage of the first Test in Karachi, averted that danger and finished the match by making 303 for three after being set 453 to win.

Srikanth told reporters the morale of his players was high after their fine second innings performance in Karachi, marked by an unbeaten 113 from Sanjay Manjrekar.

Dashing opener Srikanth said India, underdogs in the four-match series, were going to play "positive cricket" and that even if there was only a slight chance of victory they would go for it.

The match at the Iqbal stadium is likely to be played on a grassy, slightly damp pitch which may consistently help the pace bowlers.

During India's last tour of Pakistan, in October 1984, the Test at Faisalabad produced the highest totals by either side in this country — India being dismissed for exactly 500 and Pakistan replying with 674 for six declared.

"We cannot repeat what happened five years ago, but I hope we could expect a result in this Test, going by the look of the pitch," Srikanth said.

India are expected to make two changes. Off-spinner Arshad Ayub, who failed to take a wicket in the first Test, may make way for left-arm spinner Maninder Singh and 16-year-old Bombay batsman Sachin Tendulkar could be replaced by all-rounder Ajay Sharma.

Pakistan's pace bowling discovery, Waqar Younis, who took four for 80 on his Test debut in Karachi, has already been ruled out by a back strain. He bowled only two overs in India's second innings in the first Test.

The selectors have recalled left-arm paceman Salim Jaffer in

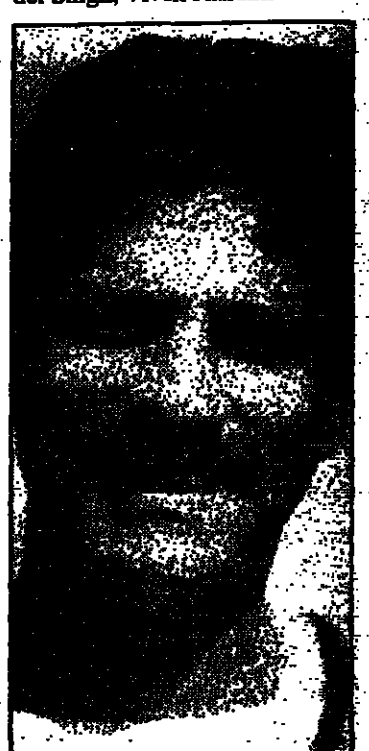
Younis's absence, and may also have to replace wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf, who is nursing an injured finger, with either Nadeem Abbasi or Zulqarnain.

Talented middle-order batsman Ejaz Ahmed, who did not play in the first test, has been named in Pakistan's squad and may be included in the final XI ahead of Shahid Saeed.

Teams:

Pakistan (from) - Imran Khan (captain), Aamer Malik, Rameez Raja, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Ejaz Ahmed, Shahid Saeed, Salim Yousuf, Wasim Akram, Aaqib Javed, Abdul Qadir, Salim Jaffer, Akram Raza, Saeed Anwar, Nadeem Abasi, Zulqarnain.

India (from) - Krishnamachari Srikkanth (captain), Raman Lamba, Navjot Siddhu, Sanjay Manjrekar, Mohammed Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Ravi Shastri, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Ajay Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar, Arshad Ayub, Safi Ankola, V.V. Raman, Maninder Singh, Vivek Razdan.



Srikanth: will go for victory

Kuwaiti players suspended

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Nov 22, (AP): Asia's soccer governing body has suspended four Kuwaiti players and one from Bangladesh for assaulting referees, the organisation's president said today.

Kuwaiti national players Amer Yasir and Abdullah Mohammad Al Mansoor each were suspended for three years, and national player Ali Bahloul and Al Arabi club team-mate Faraj Naffa were suspended for two years.

The suspensions were reported by Hamzah Abu Samah of Malaysia, president of the Asian Football Confederation.

He said the players struck a referee when Al Arabi was playing a team from Bahrain in this year's Asian club championship.

Al Arabi were also fined \$5,000.

Elias Hossain of Bangladesh was suspended for three years for attacking a referee during the South Asian Games two weeks ago. His national association was fined \$2,000, said Hamzah, at the end of a confederation executive committee meeting.

Hamzah said violence against referees was a serious offense and guilty officials or players would face world-wide suspension. He urged national associations to severely discipline offenders.

Kuwait set for big kick off

DUBAI: Kuwait will begin their assault on the Gulf Championship title alongside a host of international stars when the Dubai Exiles International Rugby Sevens Tournament kicks off today.

Held under the patronage of UAE Defence Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and sponsored by Emirates in association with MMI, the two-day marathon has all the ingredients to provide a feast of rugby action.

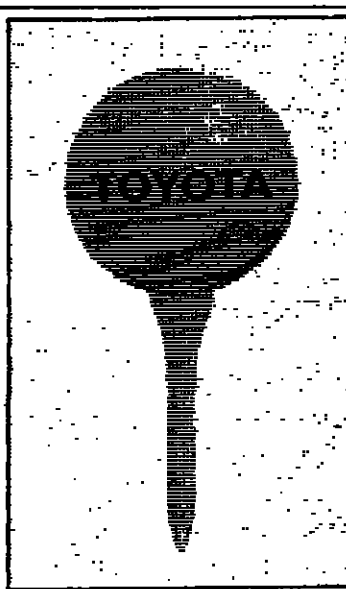
With a total of 113 matches played over today and tomorrow, the tournament is the longest in the event's 19-year history.

"It has been a major operation getting so many players, officials and supporters together for this tournament," said Dubai Exiles chairman, Robert Hughes. "The overseas sides are raring to go in the Emirates International Trophy, while the Gulf sides are keen to get into action in the Gulf Championship."

This year the 32 Middle East sides play in eight groups of four teams with the winners of each group qualifying for the quarter finals.

No. 3 seeds Kuwait, who have taken a travelling party of almost 100 players and supporters to the event, take to the field at 1.20pm with a match against Sharjah Singers, before taking on Cairo and Muscat II.

On the eve of the tournament many of the highly-talented international sides acquainted themselves with the Exiles sandy pitches during some last minute training sessions. Among the favourites for the Emirates International Trophy are wandering Welsh side Crawshaws who will be going flat out to recapture the title they last won in 1987.



Toyota Trophy

THE annual Toyota Trophy will be held at the Golf Section of The Hunting & Equestrian Club tomorrow.

This annual event, sponsored by Toyota, is one of the main competitions to be held in the club. It has already attracted 75 golfers.

Tee-off is scheduled for 12.00 noon (shotgun), which will be followed by Bar-B-Q dinner, with the families of golfers also participating.

This event is totally sponsored by M/s. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est., sole agents for Toyota in Kuwait.

The competition will be played as stableford and the prizes are for best points in A, B & C divisions.

Stage set for final round of Desert Challenge

THE BP/Alghanim 2000 four-wheel-drive rally, which starts in Kuwait today with a prologue stage will see a tough competition between the Marlboro-Mitsubishi team, and the Range Rover of Dubai-based Lebanese star Michel Saleh.

This final round of the 1989 Marlboro Desert Challenge will see Mitsubishi's Abbas Al Mosawi (Qatar); Eid Falah (Kuwait);

and, Mamdouh Khayat (Saudi Arabia) all in a close race for victory in the season's final 4x4 rally. Michel Saleh is keen to do well, and to set himself in a strong frame of mind for next week's Dubai International rally.

"Both rallies are close," said Marlboro backed Saleh. "This couldn't be helped. However, the Kuwait 4x4 was postponed due to the friendly games which were

held here last week. Naturally the pressure is on, but how about two wins in two weeks."

Another driver to look out for in this weekend's Marlboro Desert Challenge rally will be Qatar's Nasser Al Attiyya in a Nissan Patrol. The young ace is in his first season of rallying but has already created a very good impression with his performances in the recent BP 2000 Trophy

rallies in Jordan and Qatar.

Tareq Al Alyan who won the first Marlboro Desert Challenge title in 1987 is looking forward to the weekend's rallying. "I still have my wife Khoulud as my co-driver, and the same old car, my Daihatsu Rocky. It will be a good rally," Tareq is being sponsored by Mild Seven Lights.

Nineteen vehicles are expected to start in this afternoon's

prologue with a strong representation from around the Gulf — U.A.E., Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi crews are amongst visiting nations represented.

There are a total of 16 special stages of 109.20 kilometres. The total distance of the rally is 253.40 kilometres. The event proper starts at 8.30 am tomorrow morning from the Kuwait International Hotel. Organisers for the event are the Kuwait International Touring Club, with Wael Khoury and Tony Samia acting as Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Course respectively.

Top seeds

1. Abbas Ali Mosawi/Mohammed Omar, Qatar/U.A.E., Mitsubishi Pajero; 2. Michel Saleh/Mubarak Al Hajri, UAE/Qatar, Range Rover; 3. Mamdouh Khayat/Sadeq Ashkenani, KSA/Kuwait, Mitsubishi Pajero; 4. Eid Falah/Khalid Khalifa, Kuwait, Mitsubishi Pajero; 5. Mohammed Al Malki/George Sarian, KSA/Bahrain, Mitsubishi Pajero.



Al Alyan: looking forward to the rally



Falah (left): one of the favourites

INVITATION

Kuwait International Fair Co.
has the honour of inviting you to visit the

3rd Kuwait Medical Exhibition

being held at the International Fair Ground in Mishref, Hall No. 2, between Nov 26-29.

Exhibition will be open from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 to 8.00 pm

With sponsorship from
Kuwait International Fair Co.

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Dar Al-Sayegh

Editor-in-Chief:
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Sharwaikh,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:
22332 AT

Telephone:
4813566 (main lines)

Advertising:
4816326/7

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